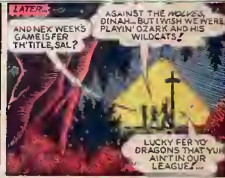
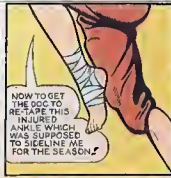




WITH THE DRAGONS TRAILING 17-16, SAGE-BRUSH SAL RECOVERS A HIGH PASS FROM CENTER AND STREAKS DOWNFIELD AS TIME RUNS OUT!



OZARK IKE'S WHODUNIT'S

by RAY
GOTTO

WHAT GREAT
MOMENT IN
SPORTS DOES
THIS EPISODE
RECALL?

LOOK, OZARK ... AH
MADE IT JUS' FER YO'
COMFORT ON TH'
TROJAN BENCH
AT TH'
ROSE BOWL
GAME.

THANKS.
DINAH...
A FO'TH
STRING
QUAWTUH-
BACK LIKE
ME WILL SHO'
NEED IT!

**LATER...WITH TWO MIN-
UTES LEFT TO PLAY AND
THE TROJANS TRAILING
3-0...**

NOBODY'S
SCORED ON
THOSE BLUE DEVILS
ALL SEASON!...I'VE
TRIED EVERY BACK
ON TH' SQUAD AN'-

ALL
CEPT ME,
COACH.

OKAY, OZARK...
GET IN THERE!
(WHAT CAN WE
LOSE?)

OH, MY!...AH FERGOT
T'TELL OZARK TH' ROSE
AH PAINTED ON TH'
CUSHION WUZ STILL
WET!

FEELS
LIKE AH
DONE PUT
ON SOME
WEIGHT!

CAN'T RUN NO
FASTER'N A LAME
SNAIL!...GUESS
AH'LL HAVE
T' FLING
SOME
PASSES!

THREE STRAIGHT
COMPLETIONS AND
THE BALL RESTS ON
THE BLUE DEVILS'
FIFTEEN-YARD LINE,
WITH LESS THAN A
MINUTE TO PLAY!

OZARK'S
FADIN' T' PASS
AGIN!

TOUCHDOWN!

AND THE
TROJANS
WIN, 7-3.

MAH HERO!...BUT
WHY AINT-CHA
CELEBRATIN'
TH' VICT'RY?

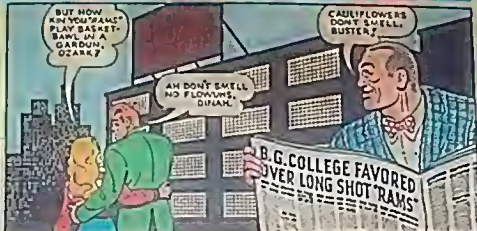
SOME-
BUDDY
DONE
SWIPED
MAH CUSH-
ION OFF-A
TH' BENCH!

UNDEFEATED AND UNSCORED ON UNTIL THE
FINAL MINUTE OF THE SEASON, A GREAT
ELEVEN'S RECORD WAS SHATTERED BY
A FOURTH STRING BACK!...WHODUNIT?-

ANSWER BELOW:

DOYLE NAME OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WHOSE PASSES TO
AL KRUEGER BEAT DUKE AT PASADENA IN 1938.

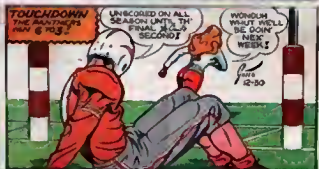
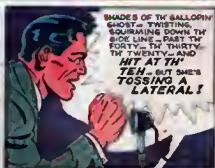
12 FULL PAGES OF COLOR COMICS
AMERICAN WEEKLY • THIS WEEK • BOOK REVIEW







**WHALES-3
PANTHERS-0**
AND A FIRST-
QUARTER FIELD
GOAL LOOKS
LARGER AND
LARGER AS
THE GAME
MOVES INTO
THE FINAL
SECONDS...







CUT TH' CLOWNIN'
AND LISTEN TO OL'
BONYPARTE BROWN
IF YOU WANT SOME
EXPERT COACHIN'...

-NOW, ON THIS PLAY OZARK
PASSES TO PEE-WEE AND
SETS UP A SCREEN TO HIS
LEFT AS TH' BALL
IS FED TO BEAN
WHO BREAKS FOR
TH' BASKET AND...

BUT WON'T
IT SAVE
TIME IF'N
AH JUS'
RARE
BACK
AN'...

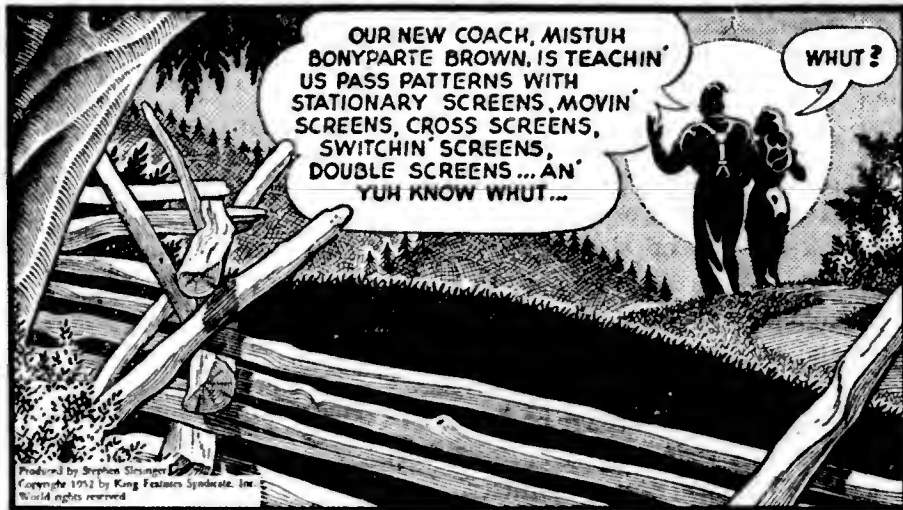
NO-NO!
NEVER THROW
LONG PASSES
UNLESS...

UH--THAT WUZ
NO PASS...JUS'
OZARK'S
PEG SHOT!

LIKE TEACHIN'
DUCKS HOW TO
SWIM?

YUP.

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TONIGHT WE PLAY THOSE
HILLBILLY 'HOT SHOTS' OF
WILDWEED RUN, AND
WHATTA TEAM!

AS THE
LEAP FROGS
DISCUSS
THEIR NEXT
GAME...



Produced by Stephen Slesinger
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TH' NOTED COACH
BONYPARTE BROWN
HAS TAKEN 'EM
UNDER HIS WING!

AND THEY'VE GOT A 7-FOOT
CENTER NAMED BEAN WHO
HAWKS THOSE REBOUNDS
LIKE A BLOOD-
HOUND!

AND HOW ABOUT
THAT OZARK IKE?...
THEY SAY HE CAN
PEG 'EM IN
FROM NEXT
DOOR!

NOT AGAINST *US*
HE WON'T... BECAUSE
WE GOT A DEFENSE
THAT'LL **STOP**
HIM COLD!!

Gene
112



LOOKIT THEM
HOT SHOTS FRUM
WILDWEED, RUN
A-WARMIN' UP!

BUT WHO'S
TH' OLD
CODGER
WITH 'EM?

BONYPARTE
BROWN, THEIR
NEW COACH!

WILDWEED
GYM
BASKETBALL
TONIGHT
LEAD 'EM HOT
FROGS SHOTS

Produced by Stephen Stranges, Inc.
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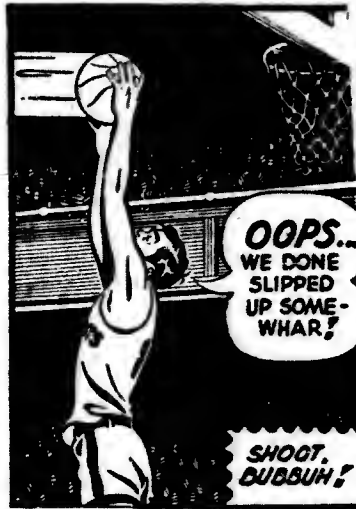
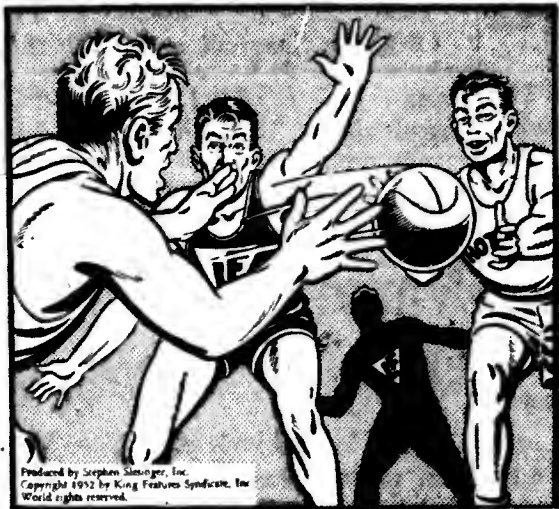
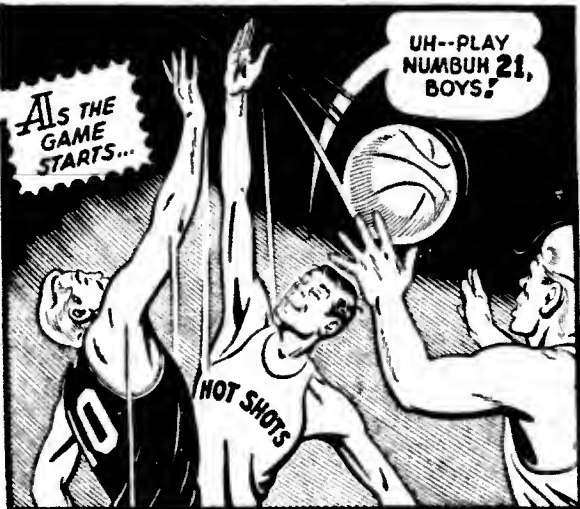
OZARK, HOW COME YUH
AIN'T PRACTICIN' YO' PEB
SHOT?

CAN'T USE
IT NO MO',
DINAH!

NO, INDEED!...
I HAVE INSTALLED
A SHORT
PASSING GAME
TO REPLACE
THOSE FOOLISH
LONG SHOTS...

...AND YOU'LL SEE WHAT I
MEAN WHEN WE SCORE WITH
OUR NUMBER 21
PLAY ON TH'
OPENING
JUMP!

1-15



WOW!
THREE
LIGHTNIN'
PASSES AFTER
TH' OPENIN'
JUMP!

BEAN'S
UNDER TH'
BASKET
WITH TH'
BALL!

**WHY
AIN'T HE
SHOOTIN'?**

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UH--PLAY
NUMBUH 21
CALLS FER
ONE MO'
PASS,,,SO
**WHAR'S
OZARK?**

PLUM TIED UP IN HEAVY
TRAFFIC, BUBBUH!

HEY, COACH!
UH--WILL IT MESS
UP THIS PLAY YUH
TAUGHT US IF'N
AH DROP
IT IN FER
OZARK?

Gono
1-17





HALF-TIME
SCORE...
LEAP FROGS-41
HOT SHOTS-19

BET-CHA
TH' HOT
SHOTS ARE
REALLY
CATCHIN'
IT FRUM
THEIR COACH
BACK THERE
IN TH' LOCKUH
ROOM!

YIP-EE!...
BONYPARTE SAYS WE
KIN GO BACK TO OUR OLD
HELTUH-SKELTUH' STYLE
IN TH' SECOND HALF!

AN' FERGIT THEM FANCY
PASS PATTERNS WE
BEEN USIN'!

MIS-USING!...

GOING
1-21

...YOU EMPTY-HEADED
HAYSEEDS AINT
EXECUTED A
SINGLE PLAY
CORRECTLY....

....SO QUIT TRYIN' TO
OUTSMART 'EM AN'
SEE IF YOU CAN OUT-
SCRAMBLE AN' OUT-
SHOOT 'EM!

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**WOW!...TH' HOT
SHOTS HAVE CAUGHT
ON FIRE!**

**THEY'RE WEARIN' OUT
TH' NET WITH SHOTS
FROM EVERY
ANGLE!**

**LOOK AT
THEIR SCORE
SOAR!**

35 44

28

23

21

**GOING
1-23**

**-AND AS THE 3RD QUARTER ENDS WITH
THE LEAP FROGS LEADING, 53 TO 44...**

**THAT'S 13 POINTS
WE DONE HACKED
AWAY FROM
THEIR 22-
POINT LEAD,
BUBBUH!**

**UH--SHO'NUFF,
OZARK...BUT WE
GOT 9 MO'
T'CHOP
OUT IN
THIS HERE
LAST
STANZA!**

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40 YEARS IN TH' COACHIN' GAME AND NEVER HAVE I SEEN AN AGGREGATION LIKE THESE HOT SHOTS!...

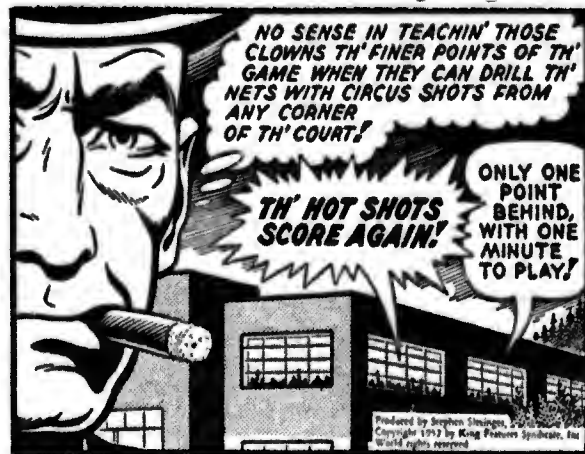
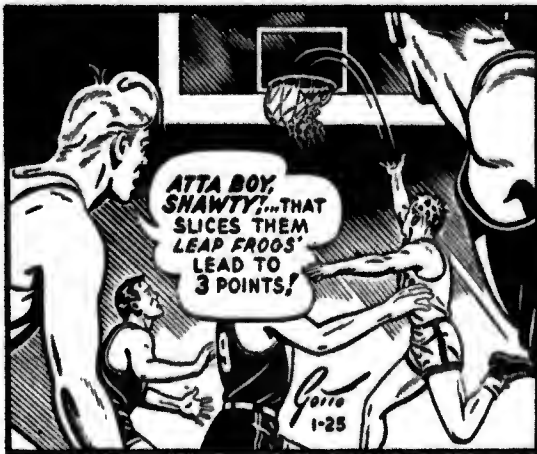
...WHEN THEY OUGHTA PASS, THEY DRIBBLE... WHEN THEY OUGHTA DRIBBLE, THEY SHOOT!...

...IN FACT, THESE HUMPTY-DUMPTIES DO ABSOLUTELY NOTHIN' RIGHT, AND YET...

...YOU'D NEVER KNOW IT BY LOOKIN' AT TH' SCOREBOARD!

IT SKIMMED TH' RIM A-GOIN' IN, BUBBUH... GUESS AH NEED SOME PRACTICE!

UH--ALL US HOT SHOTS NEED IS A FEW MO' OF THEM SKIMMUNS, OZARK!



**LEAP FROGS-68
HOT SHOTS-67
-AND THE FREEZE
IS ON AT MID-
COURT IN THE
FINAL SECONDS...**

UH--INSTEAD OF
TRYIN' T' HOL'
ONTO IT...

...THEY
SHOULDA
HID IT!

HOO-RAY!

-BUBBUN'S
DONE STOLEN
TH' BAWL AN'
FLUNG IT
TO OZARK!

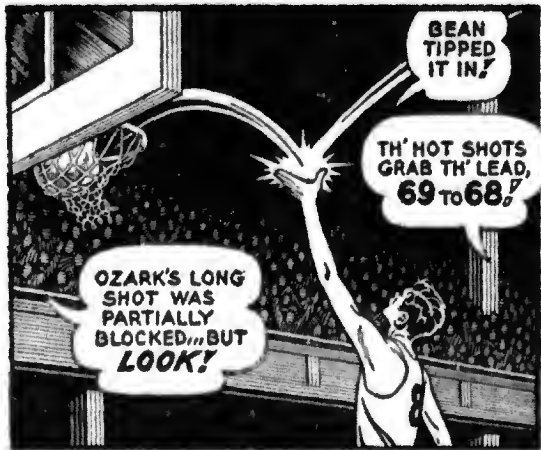
NOW ALL AN NEED
IS ELBOW ROOM
T' PEG
IT!

**HURRY, OZARK!...JUST
5 SECONDS LEFT TO PLAY!!**

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40110
1-26





WHUTTA SCARE,
OZARK?...THEM LEAP FROGS
HAD YOU HOT SHOTS BEAT
RIGHT UP UNTIL TH' LAS'
TWO SECONDS!

AND THEN OL' BUBBUN
TIPPED ONE IN T'
WIN IT FER US!...

WILD
RU
4 M

...BUT, DINAH,
WHUT HAPPENED
TO BONYPARTE?

HE JUS' UP
AN' LEF'
DURIN'
TH' GAME...
A-MUMBLIN'
SUMPUM ABOUT
YOU FELLUHS
NOT NEEDIN'
NO COACH!...

...SO YOU'LL BE
ON YO' OWN
IN YO' NEX'
GAME
WITH THEM
UNDEFEATED
TYPHOONS!

MEAN-
WHILE...

FANTASTIC!...
THE TYPHOON COACH
WILL TRY TO PUT ME IN
A PADDED CELL WHEN
HE HEARS MY REPORT
ON THOSE HOT SHOTS!

Go
1-30

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As the coach of the undefeated typhoons receives a report on his next opponents...

WIMBERLY,
YOU'RE
**OUTA
YOUR
HEAD!**

NO-NO, COACH...
I SAW IT WITH
MY OWN EYES ...

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...THOSE *HOT SHOTS* WON
AFTER TRAILING 22
POINTS AT TH' HALF ...
AND YOU'LL NEVER
BELIEVE HOW THEY
DID IT!

Go! 1-31

WHY NOT?...I'LL
JUST STUDY TH'
DIAGRAMS YOU
MADE OF THEIR
PASS PATTERNS
AND STYLE
OF PLAY
AND -

WHAT STYLE? ..I COULDN'T TAKE
NOTES ON THINGS THAT DON'T
EXIST?... BUT, MAN, HAVE I GOT NEWS
ABOUT HOW THOSE HAYSEEDS CAN
SHOOT!

RIDICULOUS!...
ARE YOU TRYING TO
TELL ME THAT OUR
NEXT OPPONENTS
HAVE NO SET
PLAYS?

YOU'LL SEE NOTHING
BUT WILD SCRAMBLING
AND CONFUSION
WHEN TH' *HOT SHOTS*
HANDLE THAT BALL...
BUT HOW THEY
CAN SCORE?

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HM-M... SOUNDS LIKE AN
ERRATIC PASSING TEAM
WITH A FAST BREAK...
BUT THEY'LL NEVER
PENETRATE OUR
ZONE DEFENSE!

THEY WON'T EVEN
TRY!...THOSE CLOWNS
WILL SHOOT *OVER*
IT, AND THEY
SELDOM
MISS!

GOING
2-1

YEAH?...WELL, TH'
TYPHOONS WILL
OUTSCORE 'EM, AND
YOU CAN GET YOUR
SHIRT ON IT!

NOT ME,
BROTHER...
IT'S COLD
OUTSIDE!





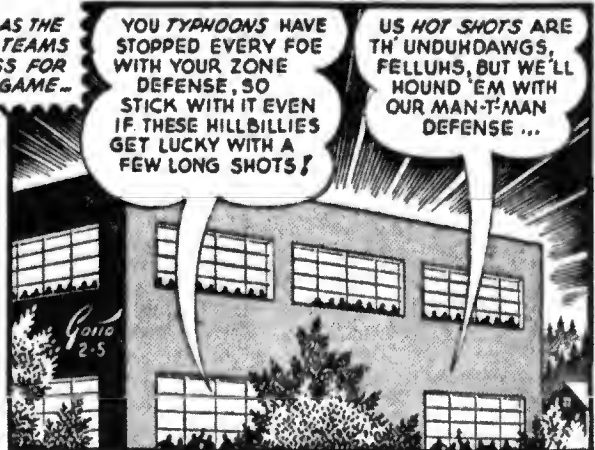


WE JUS' GOTTA BEAT THEM TYPHOONS T'NIGHT, DINAH!

AH KNOW, OZARK...LESS'N YOU *HOT SHOTS* WIN ALL YO' GAMES, YUH WONT GIT T' PLAY TH' PRO CHAMPS LATUH ON IN TH' GARDEN!


JASMINE JUNCTION
1 MILE

-AND AS THE TWO TEAMS DRESS FOR THE GAME-



YOU TYPHOONS HAVE STOPPED EVERY FOE WITH YOUR ZONE DEFENSE, SO STICK WITH IT EVEN IF THESE HILLBILLIES GET LUCKY WITH A FEW LONG SHOTS!

US *HOT SHOTS* ARE TH' UNDUHDAWGS, FELLUHS, BUT WE'LL HOUND 'EM WITH OUR MAN-T'MAN DEFENSE ...



...AN' MAKE NO BONES ABOUT IT!

UH--AH GOT A HUNCH THIS IS OUR NIGHT T' HOWL!

HOT S

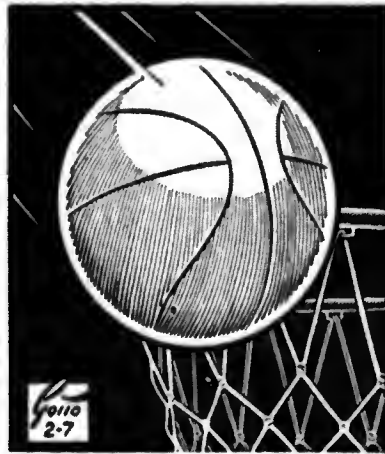
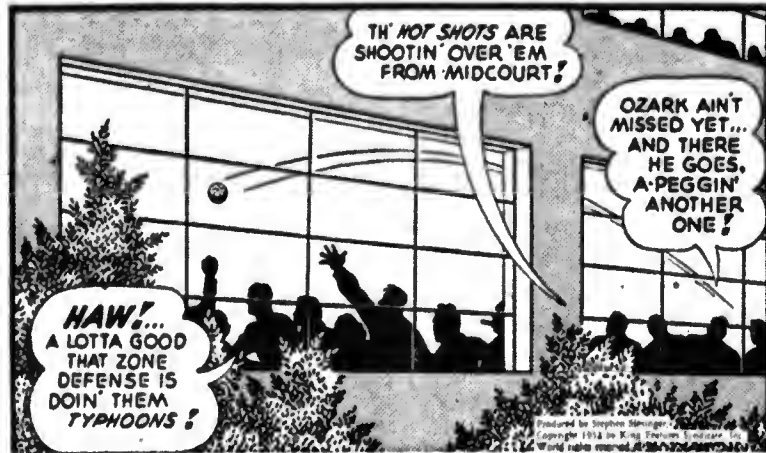
TH' HOTSHOTS' CENTER WILL OUT-JUMP US ON TH' OPENING TOSS, BOYS...

...SO HUSTLE BACK INTO YOUR ZONE DEFENSE FORMATION, AND THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK TH' BALL IN FOR A GOOD SHOT!

AND AS BEAN TIPS THE BALL TO OZARK...



(GULP) HE WHEELED AND WHIPPED IT LIKE TH' MIDDLEMAN IN A DOUBLE PLAY!...BUT HOW OFTEN CAN TH' OZARK KID HIT WITH THAT FREAK SHOT?!



WHUT A PICNIC!
THEM TYPHOONS DROP
BACK INTO A ZONE
DEFENSE EVUH
TIME WE GIT
TH' BAWL...

...SO ALL WE
GOTTA DO IS
DRIBBLE
UP TO TH'
MIDDLE
UF TH'
FLOOR...

HOT SHOTS

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...AN' FIRE
AWAY!

YOW!

-ANOTHER BASKET FROM LEFT
FIELD!...SO WE GOTTA CHANGE OUR
STRATEGY TO COOL OFF THESE
SIZZLING
HOT
SHOTS!

Yotto
2-0




BOYS, YOU
CAN BLAME
IT ALL ON ME!!!

...I THOUGHT OUR ZONE
DEFENSE WOULD FORCE THOSE
BIRDS TO RISK A LOT OF
LONG SHOTS
AND CAUSE 'EM
TO THROW
TH' BALL
AWAY!!!

HALF-TIME SCORE:
HOT SHOTS-49
TYPHOONS-35
-AND IN THE
TYPHOONS'
LOCKER ROOM...

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...BUT I WAS ONLY **HALF**
RIGHT... THE ONLY PLACE
THEY'VE BEEN SLINGIN' THAT
BALL IS **THROUGH TH'**
HOOP!!!

Go 110
2-C

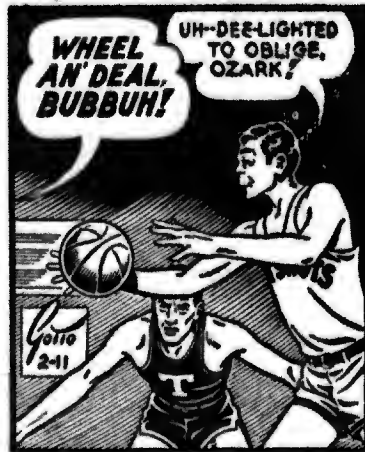


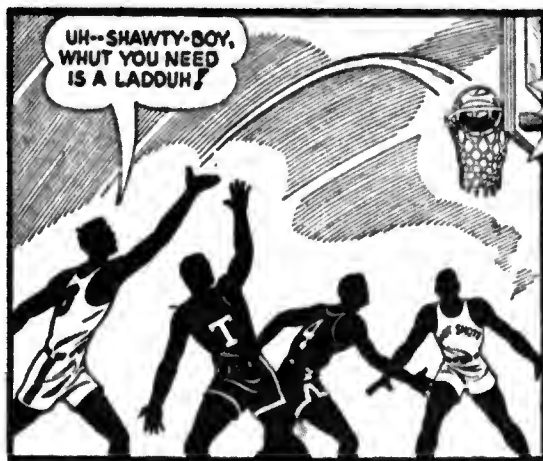
...BUT WE'LL
BEAT 'EM
YET BY
CHANGING
TACTICS
IN TH'
SECOND
HALF...

...SO GET OUT THERE AND
GUARD 'EM FROM ONE
END OF TH' COURT
TO TH' OTHER WITH
A MAN-TO-MAN
DEFENSE THAT'LL
WRECK
THEIR
SHOOTING
GAME!

WRONG AGAIN,
COACH...FOR
ONE BIG
REASON!!









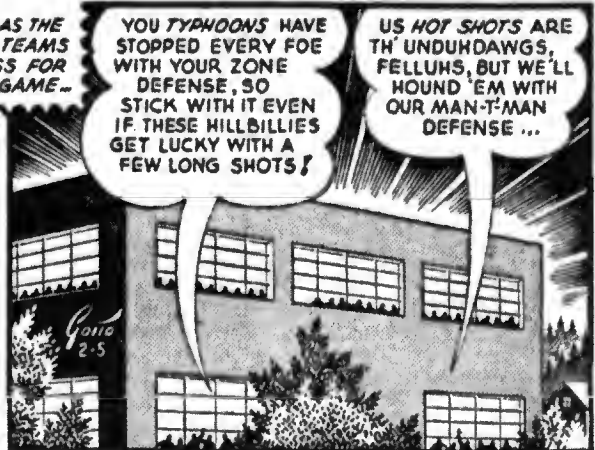
WE JUS' GOTTA BEAT THEM TYPHOONS T'NIGHT, DINAH!

A man with a pompadour hairstyle and a woman with blonde hair are standing in a rural landscape. In the background, a group of silhouetted figures stands on a hill under a bright sun. A signpost points towards 'JASMINE JUNCTION 1 MILE'.

AH KNOW, OZARK...LESS'N YOU *HOT SHOTS* WIN ALL YO' GAMES, YUH WONT GIT T' PLAY TH' PRO CHAMPS LATUH ON IN TH' GARDEN!

JASMINE JUNCTION
1 MILE


-AND AS THE TWO TEAMS DRESS FOR THE GAME-



YOU TYPHOONS HAVE STOPPED EVERY FOE WITH YOUR ZONE DEFENSE, SO STICK WITH IT EVEN IF THESE HILLBILLIES GET LUCKY WITH A FEW LONG SHOTS!

A large, multi-story building with many windows is shown. A sign on the left side of the building reads 'Gotta 2-5'.

US *HOT SHOTS* ARE TH' UNDUHDANGS, FELLUHS, BUT WE'LL HOUND 'EM WITH OUR MAN-T'MAN DEFENSE ...



...AN' MAKE NO BONES ABOUT IT!

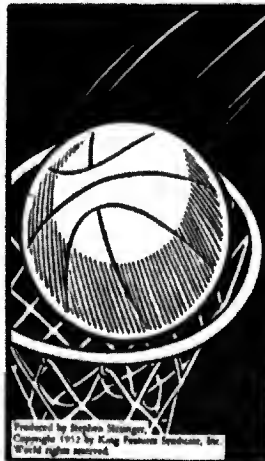
A man and a woman are shown in a close-up, looking surprised. The man is wearing a shirt with 'HOT SHOTS' written on it.

UH--AH GOT A HUNCH THIS IS OUR NIGHT T' HOWL!

TH' HOTSHOTS' CENTER WILL OUT-JUMP US ON TH' OPENING TOSS, BOYS...

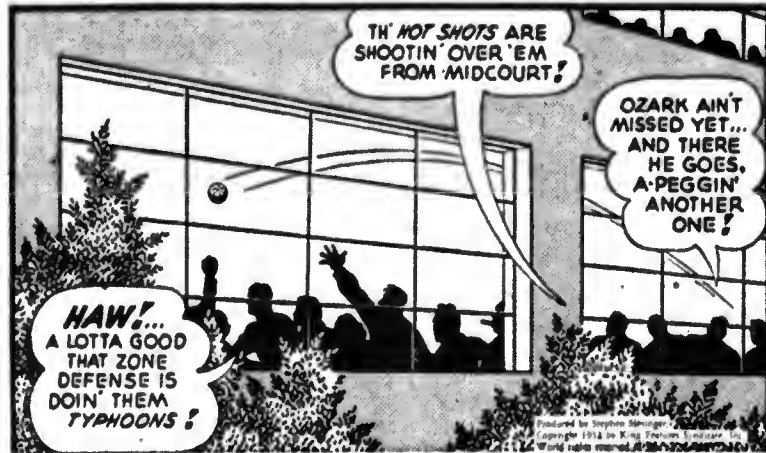
...SO HUSTLE BACK INTO YOUR ZONE DEFENSE FORMATION, AND THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK TH' BALL IN FOR A GOOD SHOT!

AND AS BEAN TIPS THE BALL TO OZARK...



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(GULP) HE WHEELED AND WHIPPED IT LIKE TH' MIDDLEMAN IN A DOUBLE PLAY!...BUT HOW OFTEN CAN TH' OZARK KID HIT WITH THAT FREAK SHOT?!



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THEM TYPHOONS DROP
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TIME WE GIT
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HOT SHOTS

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...AN' FIRE
AWAY!

YOW!

-ANOTHER BASKET FROM LEFT
FIELD!...SO WE GOTTA CHANGE OUR
STRATEGY TO COOL OFF THESE
SIZZLING
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SHOTS!

Yotto
2-0




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TH' BALL
AWAY!!!

HALF-TIME SCORE:
HOT SHOTS-49
TYPHOONS-35
-AND IN THE
TYPHOONS'
LOCKER ROOM...

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...BUT I WAS ONLY **HALF**
RIGHT!...THE ONLY PLACE
THEY'VE BEEN SLINGIN' THAT
BALL IS **THROUGH TH'**
HOOP!...

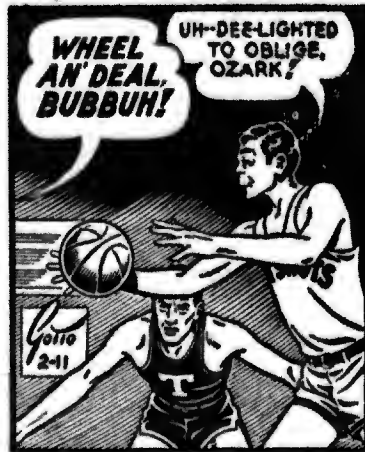
Go 110
2-C

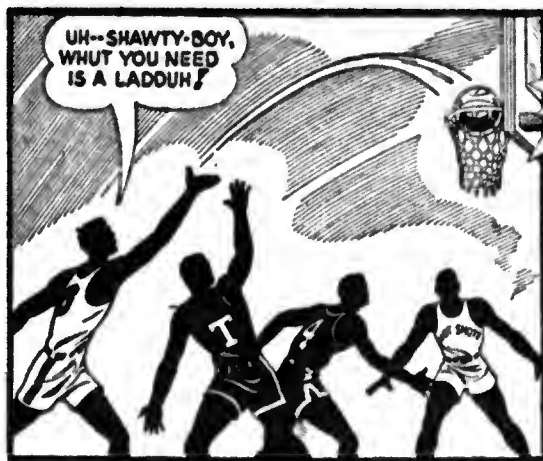


...BUT WE'LL
BEAT 'EM
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SECOND
HALF...

...SO GET OUT THERE AND
GUARD 'EM FROM ONE
END OF TH' COURT
TO TH' OTHER WITH
A MAN-TO-MAN
DEFENSE THAT'LL
WRECK
THEIR
SHOOTING
GAME!

WRONG AGAIN,
COACH...FOR
ONE BIG
REASON!!





JUST LOOK AT
THOSE PITIFUL
HAYSEEDS!...
ONLY **ONE**
TALL BOY ON
THEIR TEAM!

TH' PRO CHAMPS
SHOULD HAVE A
FIELD DAY
AGAINST THESE
PLOWBOYS!

UH--WHUT A
SQUAD THEY
GOT...MORE'N
TWO FULL
TEAMS!

AW, WHUT'S TH'
DIFFUNCE?...
THEY CAN'T USE
BUT FIVE AT A
TIME AGAINST
US!

As the
HOT SHOTS
AND
VOLCANOS
HUDDLE
BEFORE
THE GAME...

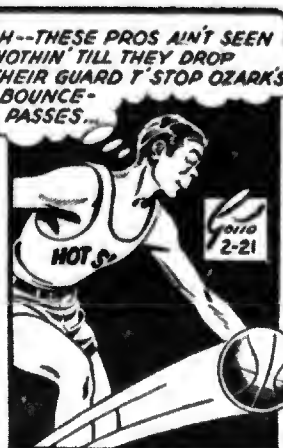
HOT SHOTS

BOYS, THEY ONLY HAVE EIGHT
PLAYERS, SO WE'LL RUN 'EM
INTO TH' BOARDS WITH OUR
TWO-PLATOON SYSTEM!

GOING
2-20

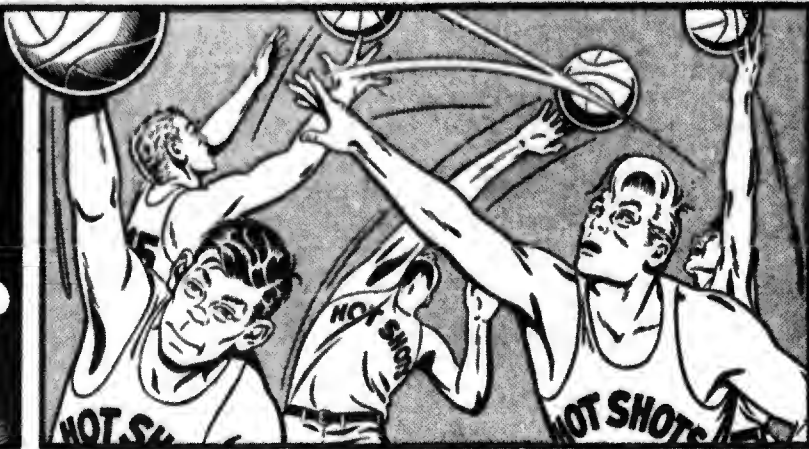
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THE OPENING TOSS.
AND THE GAME IS ON!



THEM VOLCANOS HAVE
DONE TOOKEN
AN EARLY LEAD...

...SO IT'S
HIGH TIME
US HOT SHOTS
OPENED UP!



-AND AS THE FIRST HALF ENDS WITH
THE HOT SHOTS LEADING 52 TO 47...

WOW! -HOW
THESE
COUNTRY CLOWNS
CAN PUNISH THAT
NET!

THEY'RE HOTTER
THAN A DEPOT
STOVE...BUT
HOW LONG CAN
THEY MAINTAIN
THIS KILLING
FACE?

YOTIS
2-22

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THEY'LL NEVUH
KETCH US IF'N
WE GUARD
'EM CLOSE,
SO...

LATE IN
THE THIRD
QUARTER,
WITH THE
HOT SHOTS
LEADING,
70 TO 66...

TWEE-EET

AW, ALL
AH DONE
WUZ NUDGE
HIM!

UH--TH' REFEREE
SHO' IS KEEPIN'
THAT WHISTLE
BUSY!...SOUNDS
LIKE A SQUAD
UF COPS
AT A RIOT!

AN' THAT AINT
'DIXIE' HE'S
A-WHISTLIN',
BUBBUH...ONE
MO' FOUL AN'
AH'M PLUM
OUTA TH' GAME!

UH--AN' US
HOT SHOTS
WILL BE
OUTA
LUCK!?

Gotta
2-23

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END OF THE
THIRD QUARTER,
AND THE 'HOT-
SHOTS' LEAD,
72-69!

THE FASTEST TEAM THAT'S
APPEARED IN THE GARDEN
ALL YEAR!...

... BUT HOW LONG CAN
THEIR EIGHT-MAN
SQUAD KEEP PACE WITH
THE 'VOLCANOS' TWO-
PLATOON SYSTEM?

THESE HILLBILLIES
ARE BOUND TO
WEAR OUT IN THE
FINAL PERIOD!

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TH' REFEREE
IS GIVIN' US MO'
TROUBLE THAN
THEM THERE
'VOLCANOS'!

UH-- HE'S
A-TOOTIN' OUR
SWAN SONG
WITH THAT
WHISTLE OF
HIS'N!

YUP... ONE MO'
FOUL, AN' AH'LL
BE OUTA TH'
GAME FER GOOD!...

...SO HOLD 'EM
WHILE AH RIDE TH'
BENCH FER A
SPELL!

OTTO
2-25



As OZARK
RE-ENTERS
THE GAME
IN THE
FOURTH
QUARTER...

(GULP) TH'
SCO'S ALL
TIED UP, AN'
AH'M ALL
FOULED UP!...

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...LE'S SEE,
NOW...IS
IT **HIM?**

...OR **HIM?**
...OR **HIM?**

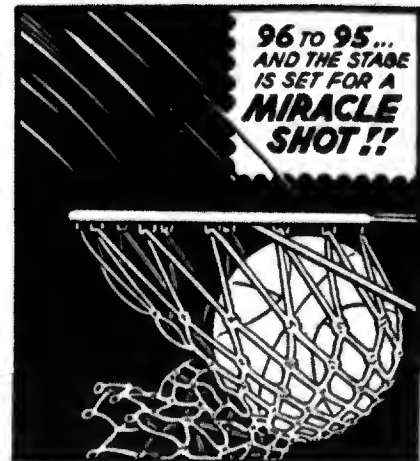
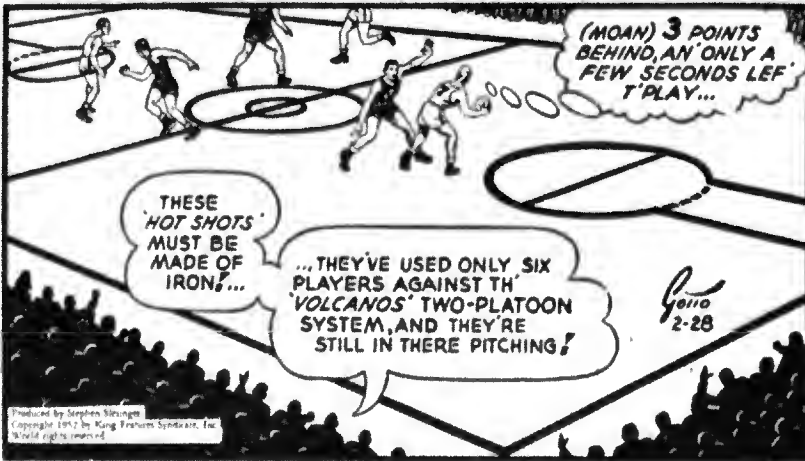
**HEY,
BUBBUH!...**

...WHICH ONE
OF THESE
'VOLCANOS'
IS **MAH
MAN?**

UH--TH'GENT
WHO JUS'
SNAGGED
THAT PASS
DOWN YONDUH
UNDUH TH'
BASKET,
OZARK...

...BUT
YOU DONE
FOUND HIM
**2 POINTS
TOO LATE!!**

Go
2-27



UH--TIME'S A-RUNNIN' OUT
WITH TH' VOLCANOS HOLDIN' A
ONE-POINT LEAD!...AN'
(MOAN) THEY
GOT TH'
BAWL!



OOPS! -COULDN'T
HANG ONTO
IT!

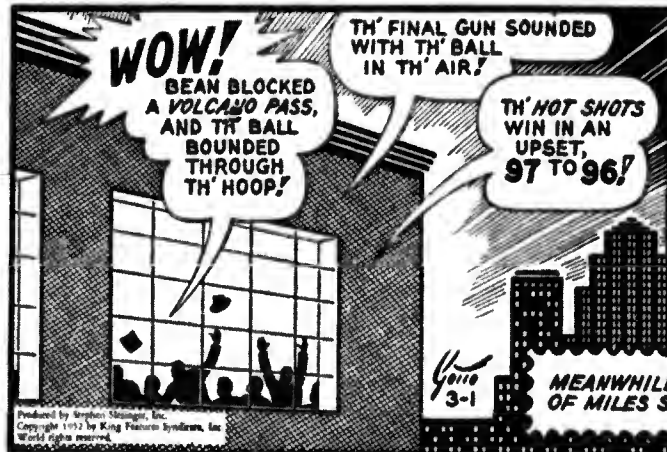
-AND AS
BEAN
MAKES
A LAST-
SECOND
LUNGE
TO INTER-
CEPT A
PASS...

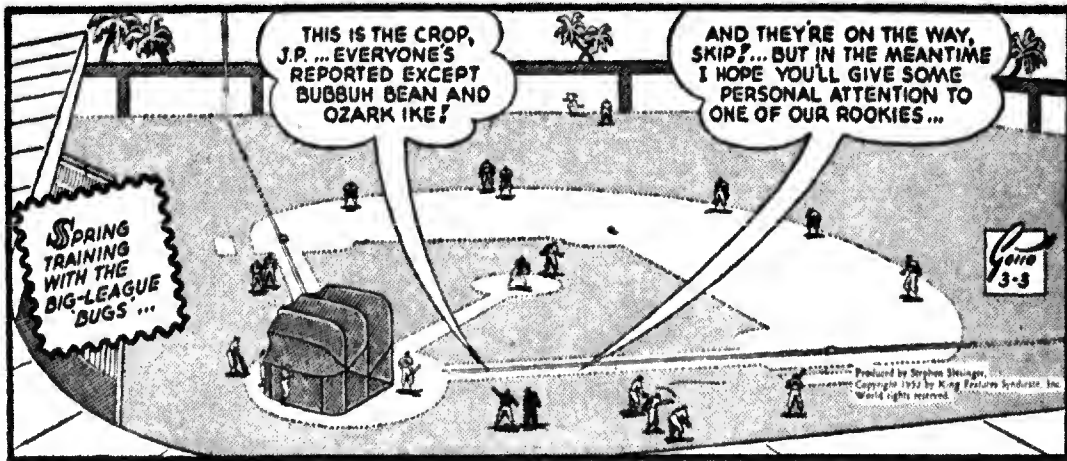


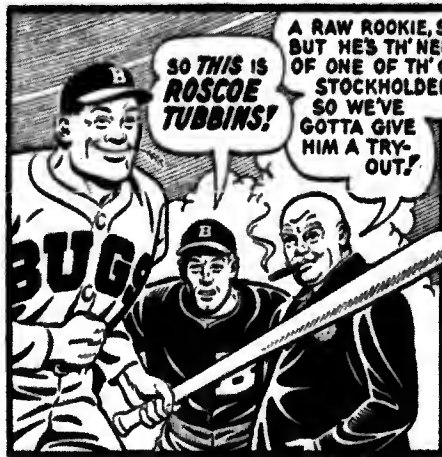
BANG!

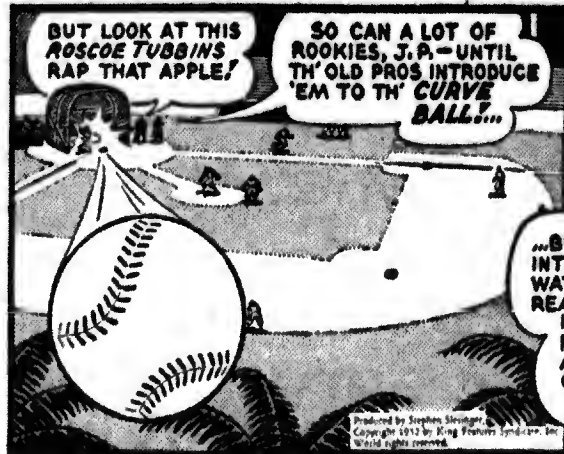
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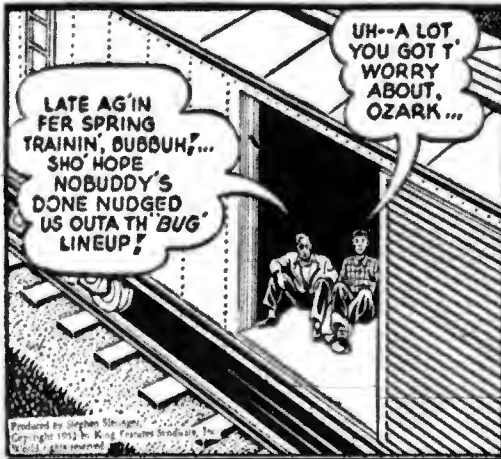










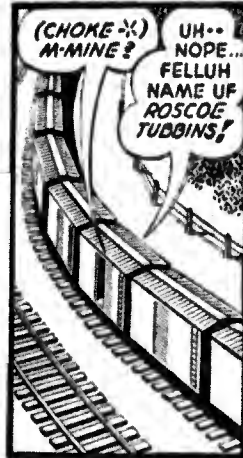


ROOKIE ROSCOE TUBBINS CHALLENGES OZARK IKE

UNHERALDED SLUGGER BIDS FOR BUG POST IN LEFT FIELD



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ZIP ZALEN,
OUR SHAWT-
STOPPIN' PAL!

WELL, LOOK
WHO'S
FINALLY
REPORTED
FOR SPRING
TRAINING...

...OUR FENCE-BUSTING FLY-
CHASER AND TH' LANKY LUG
WHO CONVERTS MY WILD
THROWS INTO
PUT-OUTS
AT FIRST
BASE!

AN' HERE'S
OL' **SPIKE
KLEATS,**
OUR ACE
FLINGUH!

OZARK, AM I GLAD TO
SEE YOU?...WE GOT A ROOKIE
NAMED *ROSCOE TUBBINS* WHO
THINKS HE'S TH' GREATEST
SLUGGER THAT EVER CAME
DOWN TH' PIKE...AND YOU'RE
TH' KID WHO CAN MAKE
HIM LOOK LIKE A
PUNCH
HITTER!

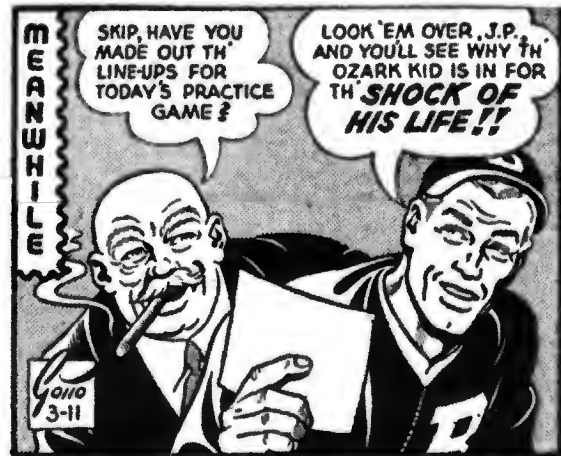
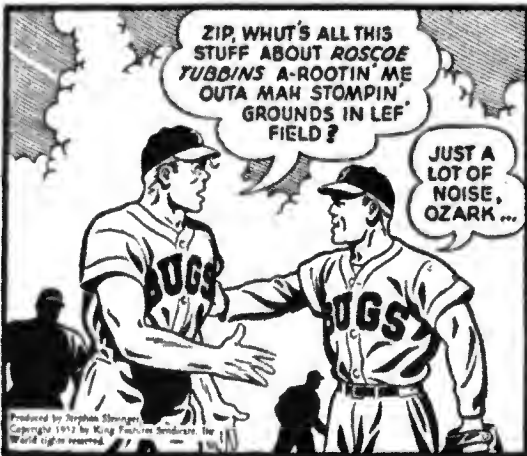
WANTA
BET,
JUNIOR?...

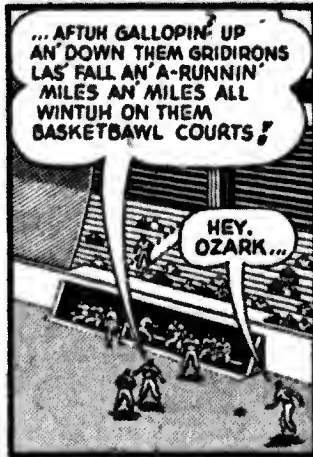
...THEY DON'T CALL ME TH'
PRIDE OF PUNKINVILLE FER
NOTHIN'!

SEE WHAT
I MEAN?

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Gatto
3-10







ROOKIE ROSCOE TUBBINS MUS'
BE PLUM STOODID, A-THINKIN' HE
KIN NAIL DOWN TH' BUGS' LEF-
FIELD JOB DURIN'
SPRING TRAININ'.

...AN' NO DOUBT
OZARK'S A-SLUGGIN'
THEM SILLY NOTIONS
OUT UF HIS HAID!

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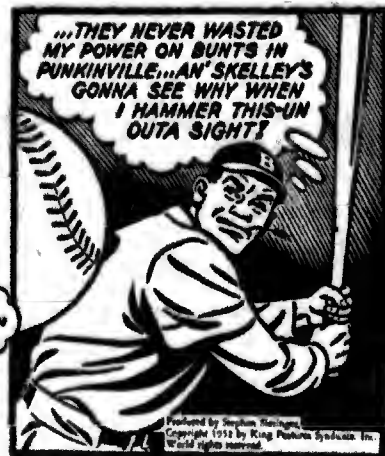
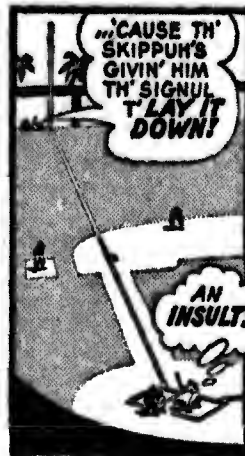
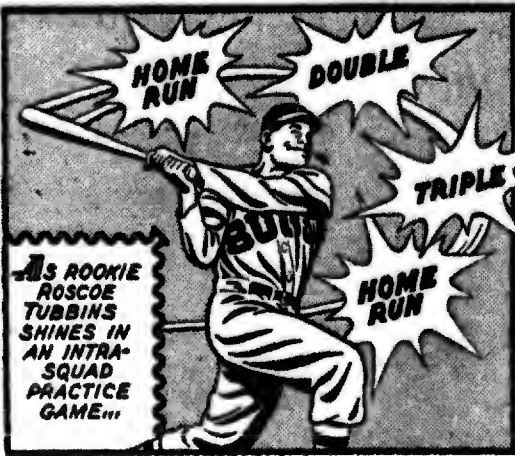
BUT LOOK
WHO'S
SWINGING
THE BIG
STICK...

IF TH' HOME FOLKS BACK IN
PUNKINVILLE COULD JUS' SEE
THEIR ROSCOE NOW!

Goins
3-14

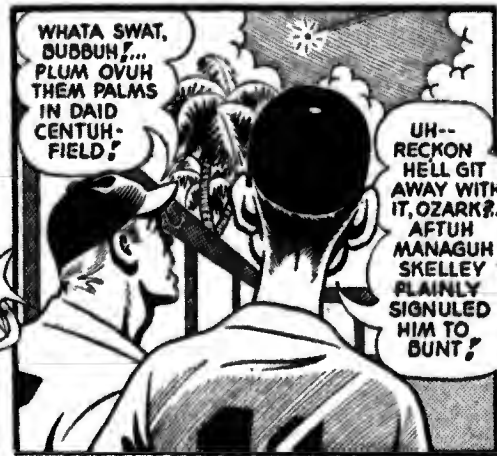
(GULP)
HE DONE
EMPTIED
TH' SATCHULS
WITH THAT
SMACK,
BUBBUH?...
RECKON AH
OUGHTA HUNT
MAHSELF
ANOTHUH
POSITION?

UH--STAY
AWAY FROM
FUST
BASE!



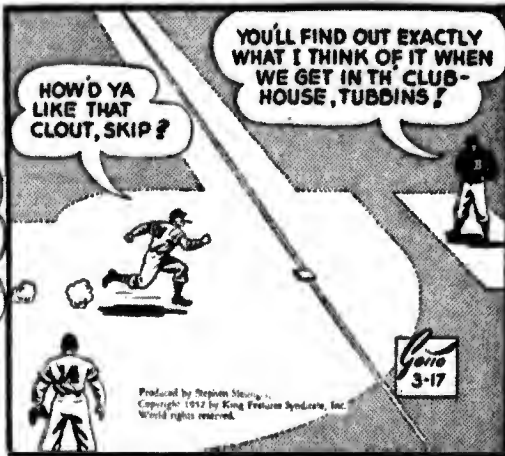


**HA!... MY
THIRD HOMER
IN THIS
PRACTICE GAME!...
THAT OUGHTA
CLINCH ME TH'
LEFT-FIELD BERTH
WITH THIS CLUB!**



**WHATA SWAT,
DUBBUH!...
PLUM OVUH
THEM PALMS
IN DAID
CENTUH-
FIELD!**

**UH--
RECKON
HELL GIT
AWAY WITH
IT, OZARK?...
AFTUH
MANAGUH
SKELLEY
PLAINLY
SIGNULED
HIM TO
BUNT!**

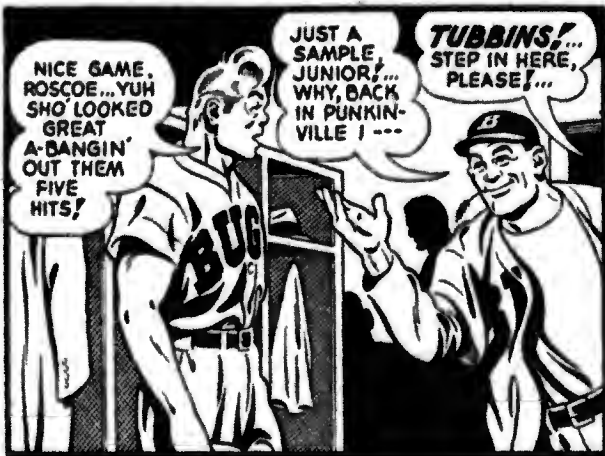


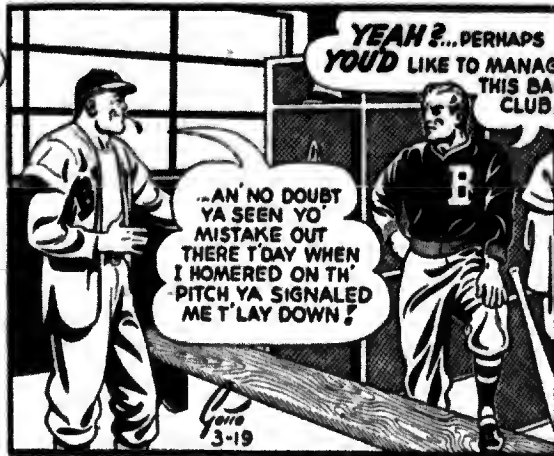
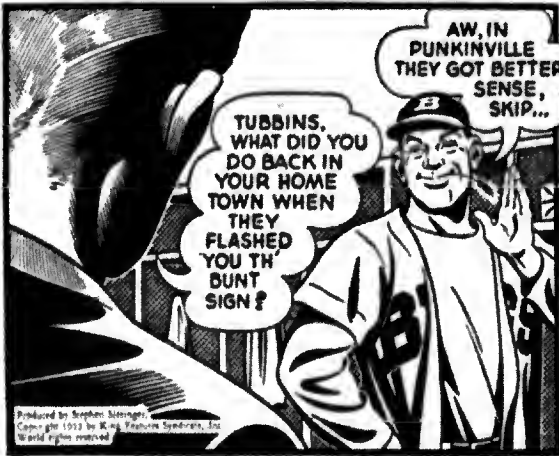
**HOW'D YA
LIKE THAT
CLOUT, SKIP?**

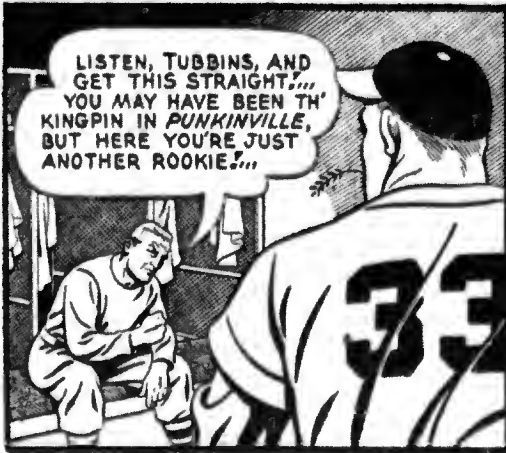
**YOU'LL FIND OUT EXACTLY
WHAT I THINK OF IT WHEN
WE GET IN TH' CLUB-
HOUSE, TUBBINS!**

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**Go! 10
3-17**







**WHAT A HITTER,
SKIP!...THIS TUBBINS
LOOKS LIKE TH' BEST
ROOKIE TO COME ALONG
IN YEARS!**

**I'M SURE ROSCOE WILL AGREE
WITH YOU, J.P.—BUT SEASON
AFTER SEASON I'VE WATCHED
'EM COME AND GO, AND YOU
CAN NEVER TELL ABOUT
THESE KIDS UNTIL THEY'VE
FACED SOME
REAL PITCHING...**

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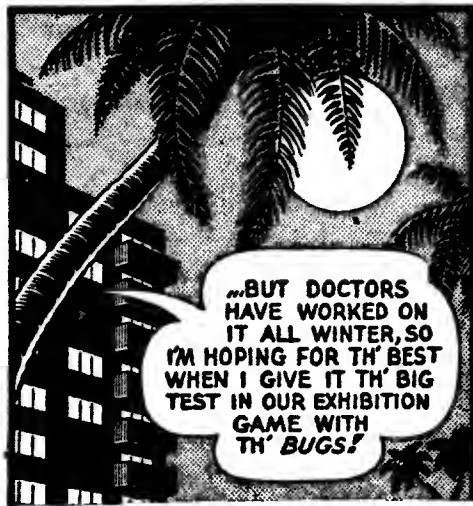
**...AND WERE
LIKELY TO SEE
PLENTY OF IT
IN OUR NEXT
EXHIBITION
GAME WITH
TH' 'LIONS'!**

MEANWHILE

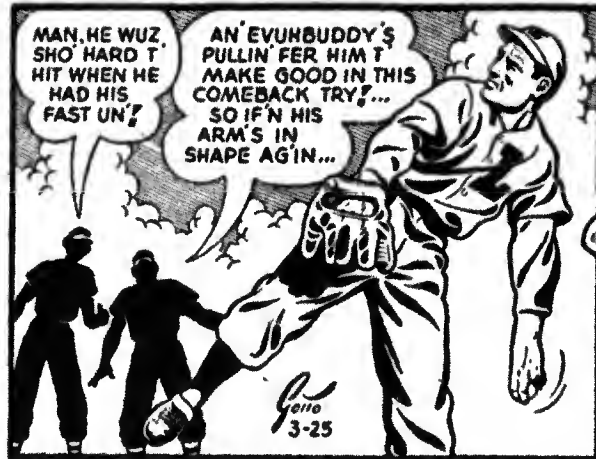
**SO YOU'RE WORKING
TH' FIRST THREE INNINGS
AGAINST TH' BUGS,
LEFTY?**

**AND IT'S MY
LAST CHANCE
TO PROVE I
AIN'T WASHED
UP, HONEY!**

3-21







As the veteran
southpaw
Lefty Spade
faces the
bugs... and
the future...

THIS IS IT,
TH' CROSSROADS
OF MY
BASEBALL
CAREER!...

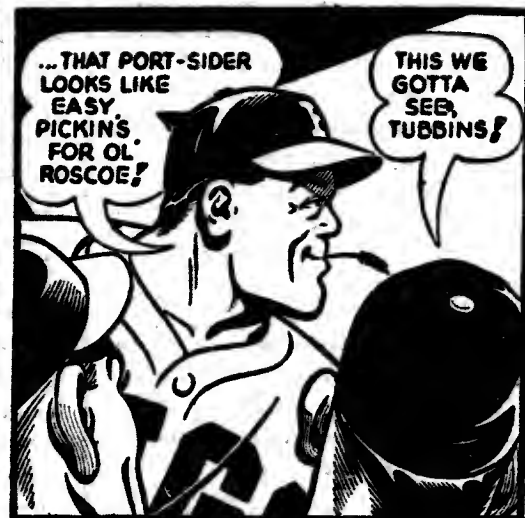
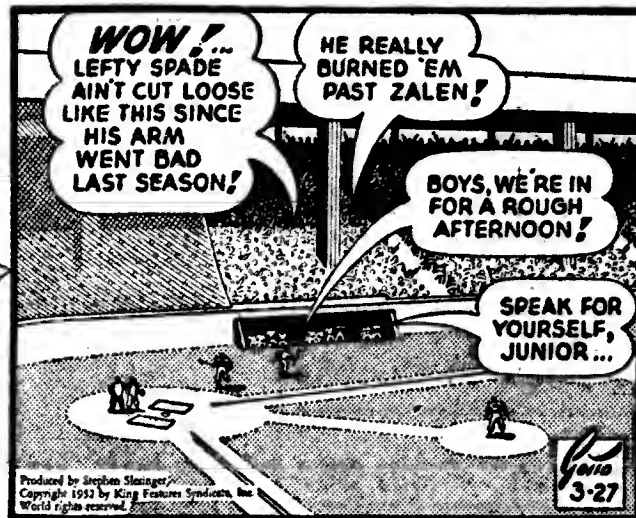
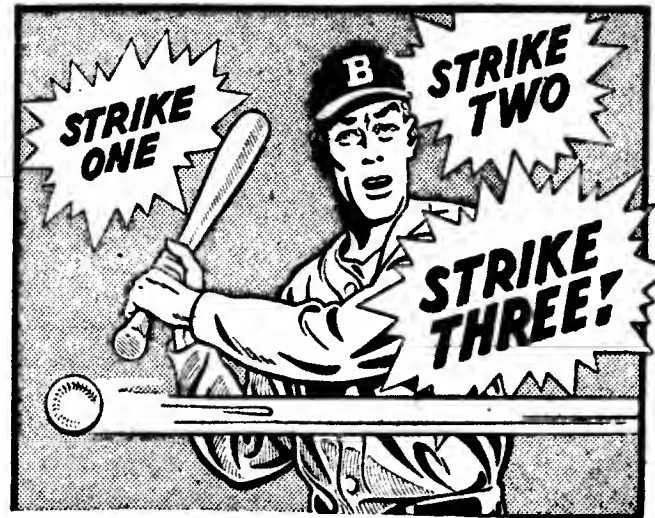
...GOTTA PROVE TO TH' BALL
CLUB AND MYSELF THAT
I AIN'T WASHED UP...

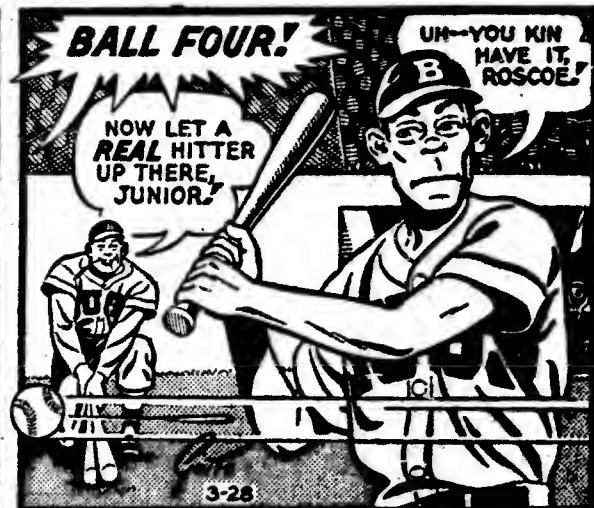
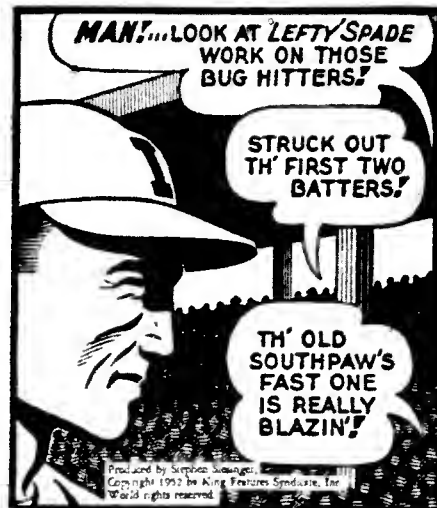
...AND I'LL
KNOW BEFORE
TH' END OF THIS
FIRST INNING
IF THERE'S
ANY LIFE LEFT
IN TH' OLD
WING...

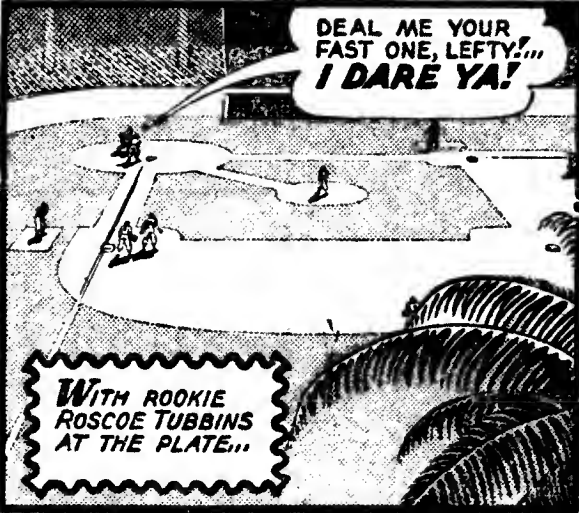
...OR
IF I'M
FINISHED!

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Gatto
3-26







DEAL ME YOUR
FAST ONE, LEFTY!...
I DARE YA!

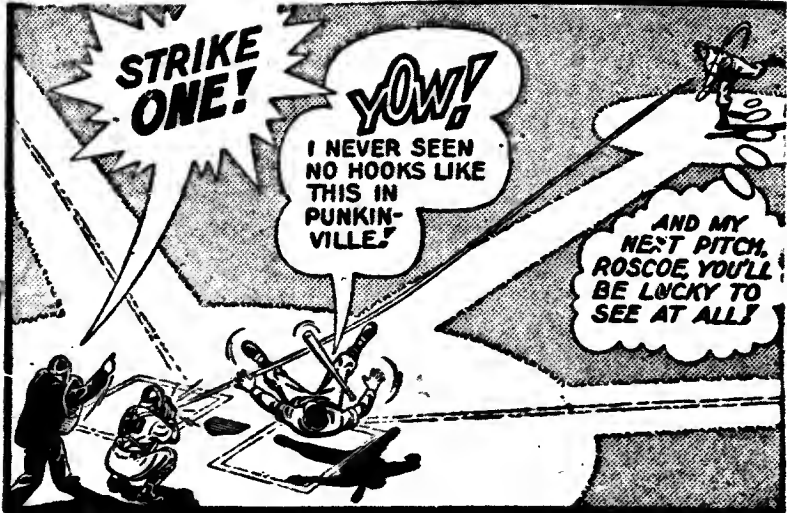
With ROOKIE
ROSCOE TUBBINS
AT THE PLATE...



YOU'LL GET
IT SOON
ENOUGH,
BIG BOY...
BUT
FIRST...

3-29

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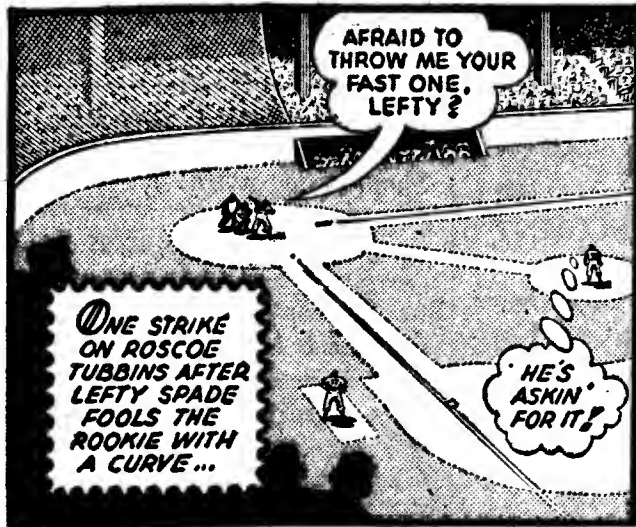


STRIKE ONE!

YOW!

I NEVER SEEN
NO HOOKS LIKE
THIS IN
PUNKIN-
VILLE!

AND MY
NEXT PITCH,
ROSCOE, YOU'LL
BE LUCKY TO
SEE AT ALL!





LOOK!...ONLY TWO
STRIKES ON TUBBINS,
BUT HE'S LEAVIN'
TH' PLATE!?

COME BACK
HERE, KID...YOU
HAVE ANOTHER
SWING COMIN'!

I GOT NO
USE FOR IT,
MISTER!

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WHERE YA
HEADED,
ROSCOE?

BACK TO
PUNKINVILLE
WHERE TH'
PITCHERS
DONT THROW
NOTHIN' I CAN'T
SEE!



NO GUTS!...
OZARK, GRAB
A BAT AND GET
UP THERE!

YAS-SUH!

HOW 'BOUT THAT?!
ROSCOE TUBBINS
LEFT TH' FIELD AFTER
'LEFTY' SPADE
BREEZED A FAST
ONE PAST HIM!

AND WITH ONLY
TWO STRIKES
ON TH' BIG
ROOKIE!

THAT'S ONE
FOR TH'
BOOKS!... AN'
LOOK WHO
REPLACED
HIM AT TH'
PLATE!

UH--GIVE IT A
RIDE, OZARK!... AH
AIN'T A-HANKERIN'
T'DIE HERE
ON FUST
BASE!

ON YO' MARK,
BUBBUH... GIT
SET...

UH--ME
AN'M BIG
MOUTH!

GO!!

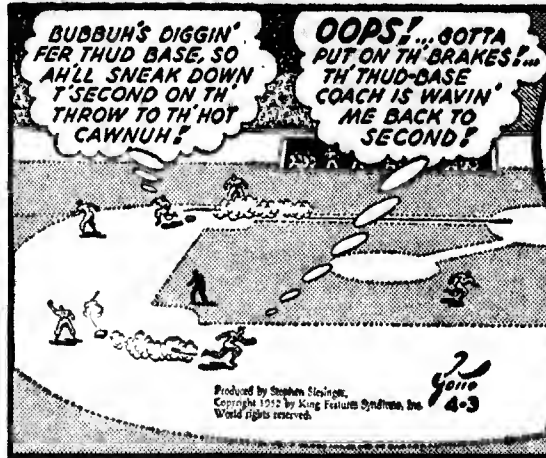
Go! 4-2

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...BUT MAYBE
AH KIN STILL
GO FRUM
FUST TO
THUD!

UH--DONE LOST
SOME TIME
A-DODGIN' OZARK'S
SINGLE TO
RIGHT...

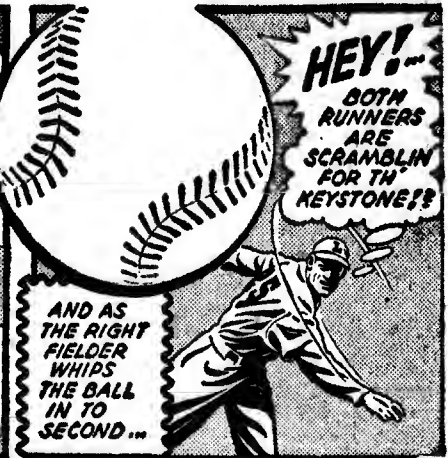


BUBBUH'S DIGGIN'
FER THUD BASE, SO
AH'LL SNEAK DOWN
T'SCOND ON TH'
THROW TO TH'HOT
CAWNUH!

OOPS!...GOTTA
PUT ON TH' BRAKES!...
TH'THUD-BASE
COACH IS WAVIN'
ME BACK TO
SECOND!

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2
40116
4-3



HEY!...
BOTH
RUNNERS
ARE
SCRAMBLIN'
FOR TH'
KEYSTONE!?

AND AS
THE RIGHT
FIELDER
WHIPS
THE BALL
IN TO
SECOND...

As OZARK DIVES
IN TO SECOND BASE
ON A HIT TO RIGHT
FIELD ...

WONDUH WHY TH'
RIGHT FIELDUH
DIDN'T TRY T'
NAIL BUBBUH
AT THUD!

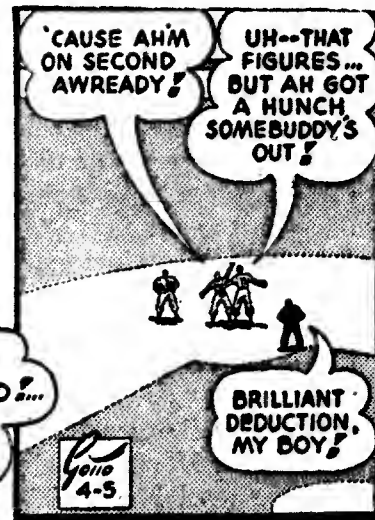
UH--TH' THUD
BASE COACH
WAVED ME
BACK TO
SECOND, SO ...

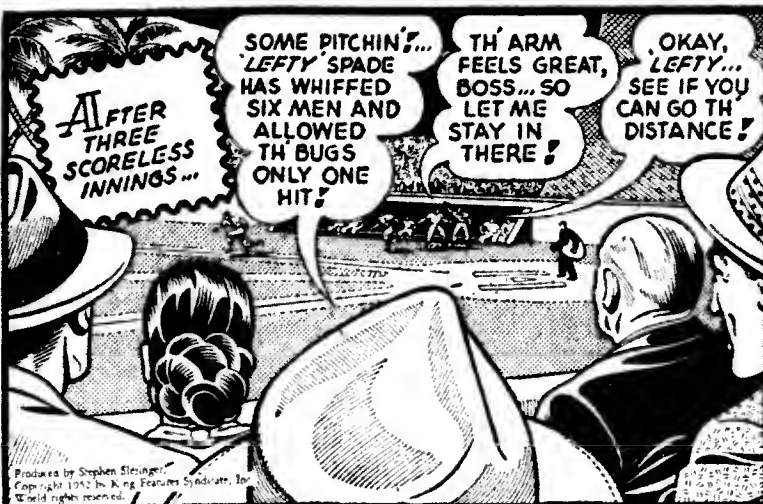
GOING
4-4

(GULP) WULL,
LOOK WHO'S
HERE!

UH--SMALL
WORLD,
AIN'T IT?

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AFTER
THREE
SCORELESS
INNINGS...

SOME PITCHIN'...
'LEFTY' SPADE
HAS WHIFFED
SIX MEN AND
ALLOWED
TH' BUGS
ONLY ONE
HIT!

TH' ARM
FEELS GREAT,
BOSS... SO
LET ME
STAY IN
THERE!

OKAY,
'LEFTY'...
SEE IF YOU
CAN GO TH'
DISTANCE!

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Go! 10
4-7

-AND LOOK AT
HIM GO!...FIVE
MORE SCORE-
LESS FRAMES!



A SHUTOUT IF I
CAN MOW DOWN
TH' TOP OF TH'
BUGS' BATTING
ORDER IN
TH' NINTH!

INNING
BUGS
LIONS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

WITH
'LEFTY' SPADE
JUST THREE
OUTS AWAY
FROM A
TWO-HIT
SHUTOUT...



**BALL
FOUR!**



**BALL
FOUR!!**



**BALL
FOUR!!!**



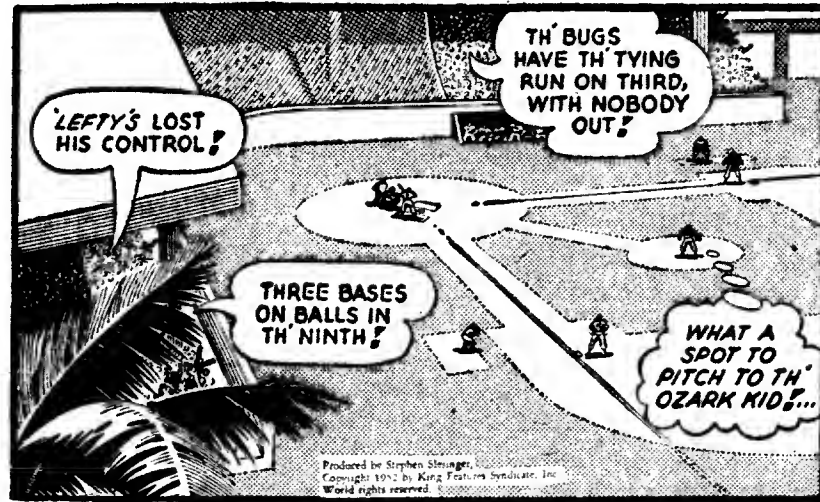
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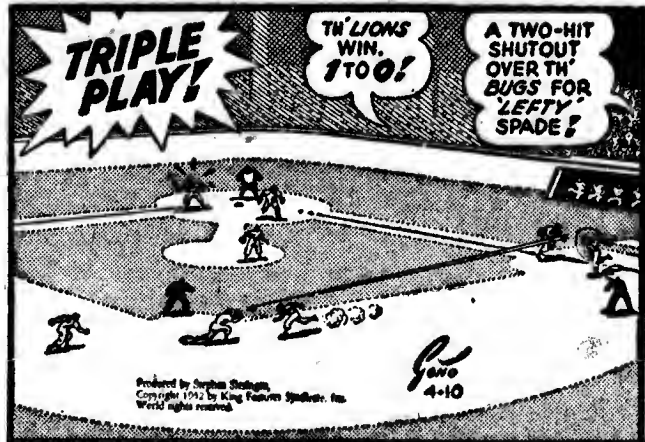
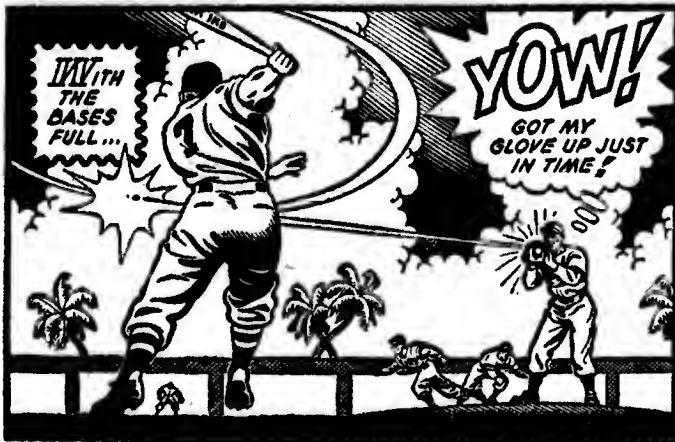
SETTLE
DOWN,
LEFTY...
RELAX!

RELAX?... WITH
TH' SACKS LOADED,
NOBODY OUT
AND OZARK
IKE AT BAT!



Gatto
4-8





OH, LEFTY... TH' WAY
YOU SHUT OUT TH' BUGS
TODAY PROVES THAT
YOUR ARM IS
STRONG
AGAIN!

HOPE IT
HOLDS UP FOR
20 OR 25
WINS THIS
SEASON,
HONEY!

MEAN-
WHILE...

WHUT A COME-
BACK... AN' AFTUH
THINKIN' OL'
LEFTY WUZ
PLUM
WASHED
UP!

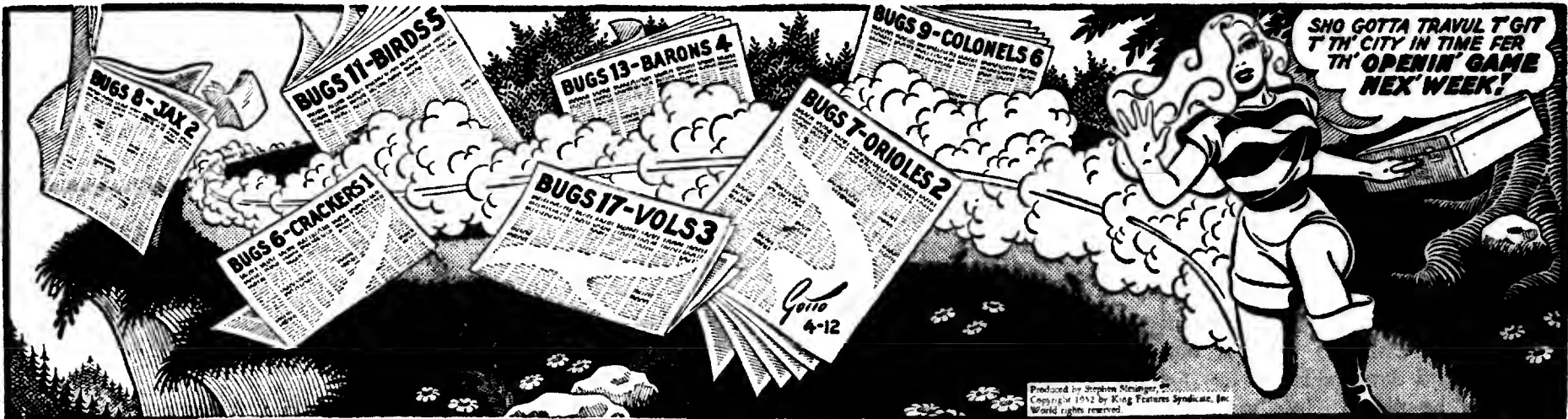
COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED
TO A NICER GUY... BUT HIS
PITCHING WILL MAKE TH'
LIONS A REAL PENNANT
THREAT!

UH--LOOKS LIKE
US *BUGS* ARE IN
FER A SCRAP
RIGHT DOWN
TO TH' WIRE!

BREAK IT UP, BOYS... TIME
TO CHECK OUT AND HIT TH'
GAME-A-DAY EXHIBITION
TRAIL!

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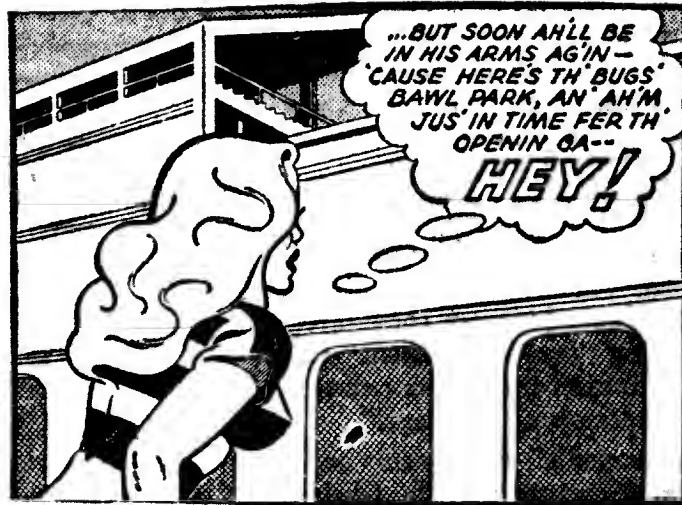
Go! 10
4-11



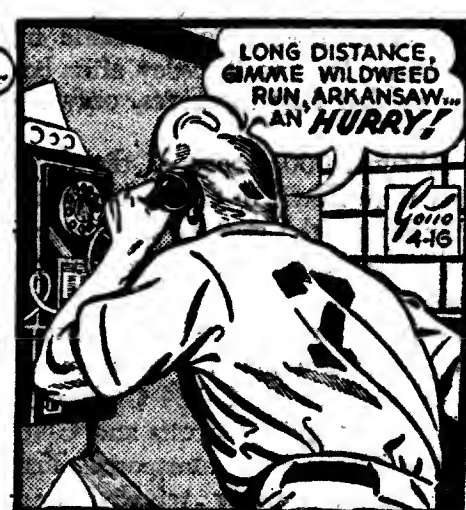
SHO GOTTA TRAVUL T GIT
T' TH' CITY IN TIME FER
TH' OPENIN' GAME
NEX' WEEK!

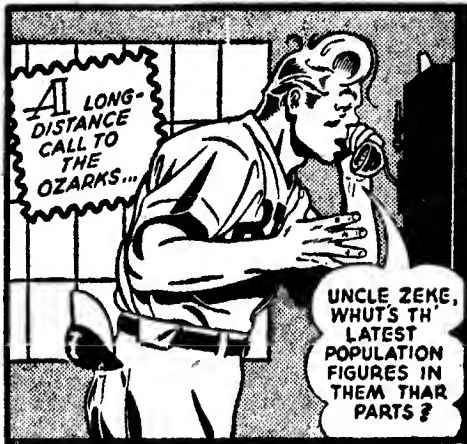
Gotto
4-12

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(MOAN) DINAH
AIN'T HOME IN TH'
OZARKS AN' SHE
AIN'T HERE AT
US BUGS'
OPENING GAME ...

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...SO WHAR
KIN SHE
BE ?

GOOD THING TH'
SKIPPER'S KEEPIN' TH' KID
ON TH' BENCH...IN HIS
FRAME OF MIND HE
COULDN'T HIT A BASKET-
BALL WITH A TENNIS
RACKET!

M
E
A
N
W
H
I
L
E

(SOB :-() NOTHIN'
T'DO BUT WAIT HERE
UNTIL TH' BUGS
RETURN FER THEIR
FUST HOME
GAME!

AH...A CHANCE T' HEAR
TH' PLAY-BY-PLAY
REPORT!

-AND THREE
RUNS SCORE ON
BEAN'S LONG
DOUBLE TO
RIGHT-
CENTER

GOING
4-18



**BUGS-6
OWLS-6**
AND WITH
TWO AWAY
IN THE
TOP OF
THE NINTH...

SKELLEY'S SENDING
IN OZARK IKE TO
PINCH-HIT!

GOTTA USE
SOME CORNY
PSYCHOLOGY
ON TH' KID!

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GOING
4-21

WE CAN'T START CHECK-
ING ON TH' WHEREABOUTS
OF OUR MISSING BAT GIRL
UNTIL AFTER TH' GAME ...
SO LET'S GET IT OVER
WITH!

JUS' WHUT
AH AIM
T'DO!

MEANWHILE

HOW
COME YUH
KNOW
MAH NAME,
MISTUH?

YOU'D BE
SURPRISED,
DINAH!

**STRIKE
ONE! ...**
AND THE
OZARK KID
SWUNG
FROM HIS
HEELS!

A STROKE OF
LUCK FINDING YOU
HERE, DINAH!

BUT *WHO*
ARE *YOU*?

**BALL
THREE!**
-AND
THE COUNT
GOES TO
3 AND 1
ON OZARK
IKE!

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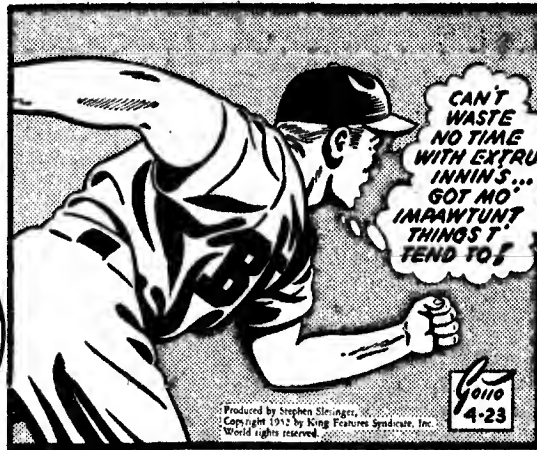
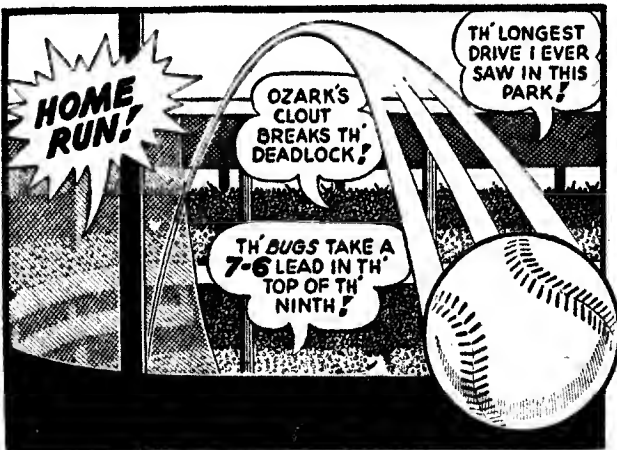
MY NAME IS
UNIMPORTANT,
KID, BUT I GOT
CONNECTIONS...
AND PLANS
FOR YOU!...

...AND UNLESS I MISS
MY GUESS, YOU'LL BE A
SENSATION...TH'
SURPRISE OF TH'
SEASON...TH'
TOAST OF TH'
TOWN!

NO
FOOLIN'?

THE WINDUP...
THE PITCH...

JOHN
4-22



As the bugs return for
their first home game...

UH--NO
SIGN UP
DINAH YET,
OZARK?

AH AIN'T EVUN
COME UP WITH
THAT FUST CLUE,
BUBBUH?...

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...AN' WHUT A TIME FER
HER T' GO AN' GIT LOST...
JUS' WHEN AH FINULLY
GOT ENUFF MONEY
SCRAPED T'GETHUH
FER US T' TIE
TH' NOOSE!

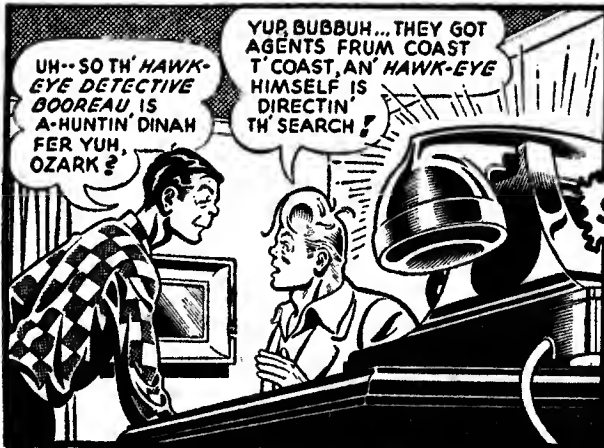
UH--WHY DON'T YUH HIRE
A PRIVATE EYE?... THEM
BOYS NEVUH FAIL T'
SOLVE A CASE ... NOT
ON MAH RADIO, ANYHOW!

HOURS
LATER...

Collo
4-24

IS THIS TH'
HAWK-EYE
DETECTIVE
BOOREAU?





UH-- SO TH' HAWK-
EYE DETECTIVE
BOOREAU IS
A-HUNTIN' DINAH
FER YUH,
OZARK?

YUP, BUBBUH... THEY GOT
AGENTS FRUM COAST
T' COAST, AN' HAWK-EYE
HIMSELF IS
DIRECTIN'
TH' SEARCH!



HUNH, HAWK-EYE?...
SOMEBUDDY ANSWERIN'
HER DESCRIPTION WUZ
REPORTEDLY SEEN IN
CINCINNATI?

9 A.M.

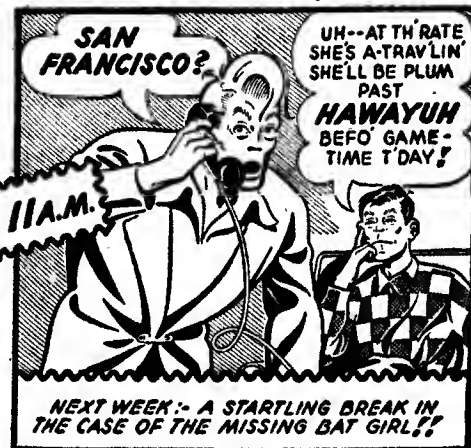
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IN **SALT
LAKE
CITY?**

10 A.M.

Gotto
4-26



**SAN
FRANCISCO?**

UH-- AT TH' RATE
SHE'S A-TRAV'LIN'
SHE'LL BE PLUM
PAST
HAWAYUH
BEFO' GAME-
TIME T'DAY!

11 A.M.

**NEXT WEEK:- A STARTLING BREAK IN
THE CASE OF THE MISSING BAT GIRL!!**

MISSING!

THE BUGS' BAT GIRL
DINAH

... AND THE
FATE OF A
BIG-LEAGUE
BALL CLUB
IS AT
STAKE!

STAR
SLUGGER
**OZARK
IKE:**

"(CHOKE)
AH WON'T
FEEL LIKE PLAYIN'
NO BAWL UNTIL
SHE SHOWS UP!"

MANAGER
SKIP SKELLEY:

"UNLESS SHE'S
FOUND, AND SOON,
OUR CHANCES FOR
TH' PENNANT WILL
BE WRECKED!"

PRIVATE DETECTIVE
HAWK-EYE:

"ON BEHALF OF MY
CLIENT OZARK IKE,
I'LL HUNT AND HUNT
AND HUNT...UNTIL HIS
MONEY RUNS OUT!"

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As the bugs dress for their first appearance of the season in their home park...

UH--OZARK, WHUT'S THAT PRIVATE EYE CHARGIN' YUH T' HUNT FER DINAH?

A HUNDERD A DAY PLUS EXPENSES, BUBBUH... SO THAR GOES MAH NEST EGG!

UH--RECKON HE'S A-FEATHERIN' HIS OWN NEST WITH THAT EXPENSE ACCOUNT?

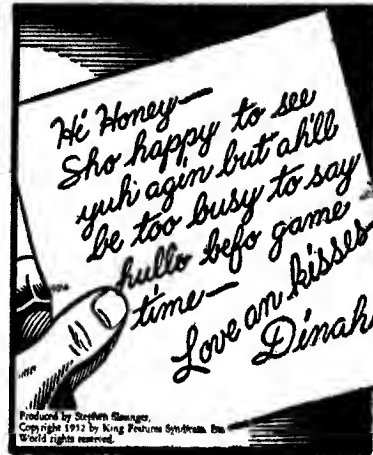
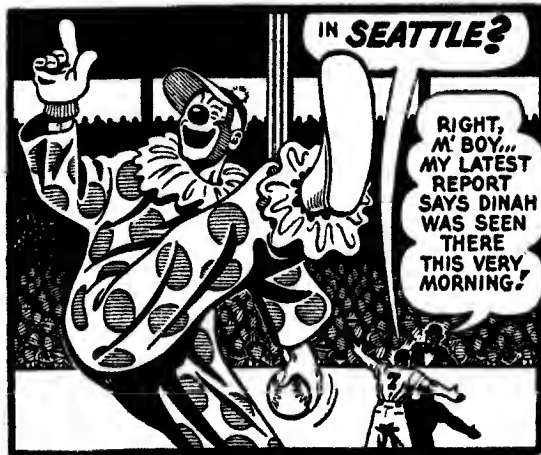
AW, HAWK-EYE'S GOT NOTHIN' BUT MAH INTEREST AT HEART... BEEN PHONIN' ME EVUH HOUR, IN FACT!

UH--HUNH... LIKE THAT LAST CALL WHEN HE BUMMED A PASS OFF'N YUH TO T'DAY'S GAME!

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Go to 4-29





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HOW 'BOUT THAT,
HAWK-EYE?...
A NOTE FROM
DINAH!

HM-M-M...
SAYS SHE'S
HERE IN TH'
BALL PARK,
EH?

YUP-BUT SAYS SHE'LL
BE TOO BUSY T' SEE ME
BEFO' GAME
TIME...SO
WHAR'BOUTS
KIN SHE
BE?...AN'I
WONDUH
WHUT SHE'S
A-DOIN'...

UH--
SELLIN'
SCO' CARDS,
MAYBE?...
OR HUS'LIN'
HOT
DAWGS?

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LEAVE IT TO ME,
BOYS...**NOBODY**
CAN HIDE FROM
THE GREAT
HAWK-EYE!

UH-BIG DEAL...HE
COULDN'T FIND A QUARTET
IN A PHONE
BOOTH!

Gatto
5-2

HA!
-THOSE
CLOWNS
WERE A
SCREAM!

LET'S GIVE
'EM A HAND!

ALMOST TIME
TO START TH'
GAME!

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SURE YOU
FEEL LIKE
PLAYING
TODAY,
OZARK?

YUP...THIS NOTE FRUM
DINAH SAYS SHE'S RIGHT
HERE AT TH' BAWL PARK,
SO AH'M A-RARIN' T' GO!

-ONLY AH AINT
SEEN HER NO
PLACE YET...AN'
HAWK-EYES DONE
LOOKED HIGH AN'
LOW WITHOUT
NO LUCK!

-BUT AS THE BUGS TAKE
THE FIELD...

OZARK!

DINAH'S VOICE!
-WHAREVUH DID
SHE POP UP
FRUM?

AS THE
BUGS
TAKE THE
FIELD FOR
THEIR
GAME
WITH
THE
CATS...

**OZARK,
IT'S
ME!**

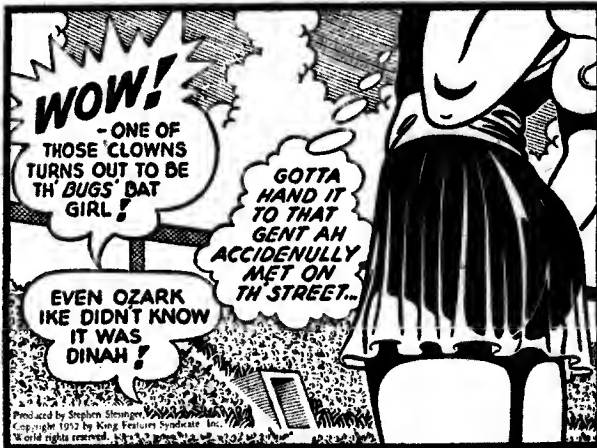
**DINAH!
-IN A
CLOWN
OUTFIT!**

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NO WONDUH *HAWK-EYE* COULDN'T FIND
YUH, HONEY... BETCHA HE'S GITTIN' A BIG
LAFF
OUTA
THIS!

MAKE A MONKEY OUTA
ME, WILL THEY?...
OZARK IKE WILL PAY
AND PAY PLENTY
FOR THIS
OUTRAGE!

Game
5-5



WOW!

- ONE OF
THOSE 'CLOWNS
TURNS OUT TO BE
TH' BUGS' DAT
GIRL!

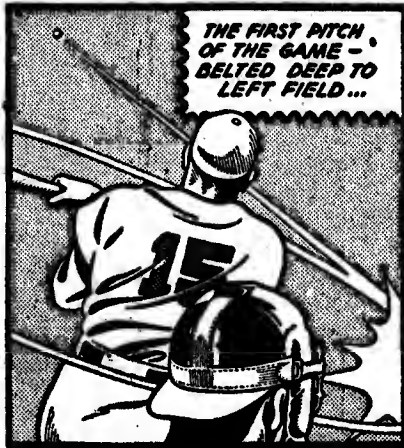
GOTTA
HAND IT
TO THAT
GENT AH
ACCIDENULLY
MET ON
TH STREET..

EVEN OZARK
IKE DIDNT KNOW
IT WAS
DINAH!

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... HE WUZ PLUM
RIGHT WHEN HE SAID
AH'D BE TH'
SUHPRISE UF TH'
SEASON IF N AH
JOINED HIS CLOWN
ACT!



THE FIRST PITCH
OF THE GAME -
BELTED DEEP TO
LEFT FIELD...



WHUT A
SIGHT FER
SORE EYES...
JUS' CANT
STOP
A-LOOKIN'
AT DINAH!

Yello
5-6

ROOKIE ROSCOE TUBBINS CHALLENGES OZARK IKE

UNHERALDED SLUGGER BIDS FOR BUG POST IN LEFT FIELD



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(MOAN) SERVES ME
RIGHT FER REPORTIN'
LATE, BUDDUH?

UH--THANK
GOODNESS
AH AINT IN
A CERTAIN
FELLUH'S
SHOES?

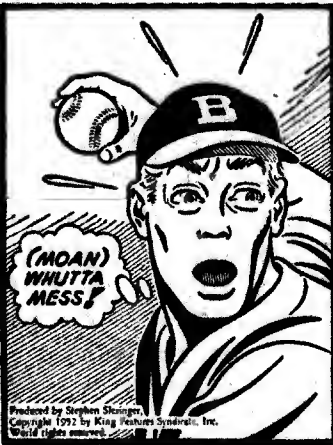
(CHOKE-X)
M-MINE?

UH--
NOPE...
FELLUH
NAME UP
ROSCOE
TUBBINS?

BUT LOOK!

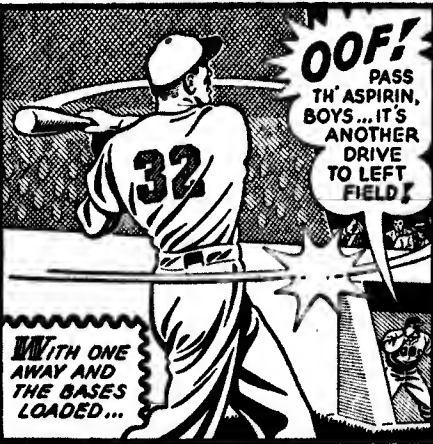
TUBBINS
TAGGED
ANOTHER
ONE!

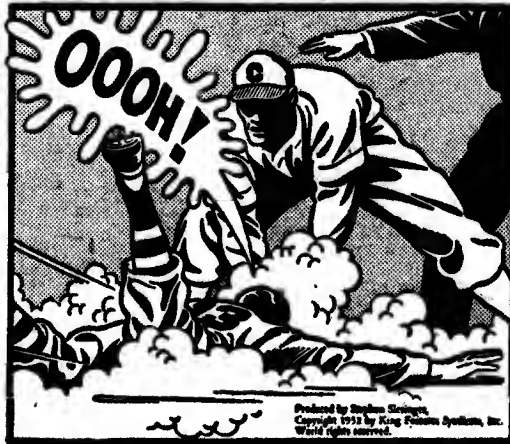
FOUR
IN A
ROW
OUTA TH'
PARK!

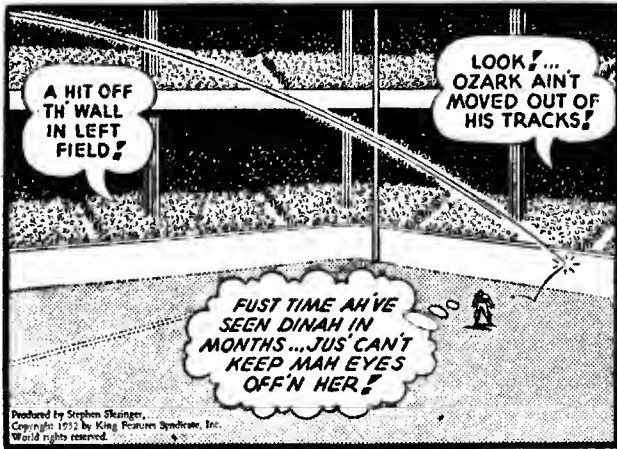


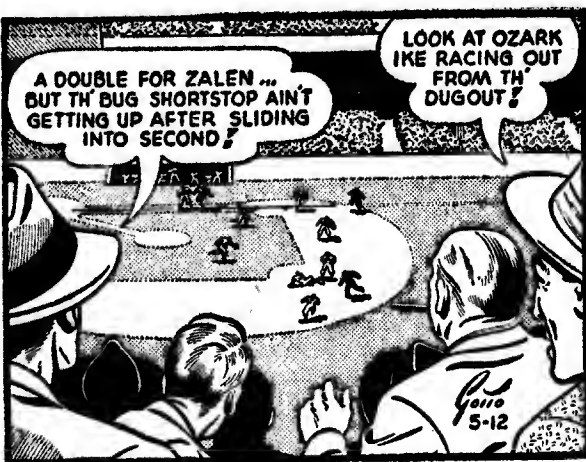
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A DOUBLE FOR ZALEN ...
BUT TH' BUG SHORTSTOP AIN'T
GETTING UP AFTER SLIDING
INTO SECOND!

LOOK AT OZARK
IKE RACING OUT
FROM TH' DUGOUT!

Gatto
5-12



GIT UP FRUM THAR, ZIP,
BEFO' YUH SCARE TH' DAY-
LIGHTS OUT UF
EVUHBUDDY!

I--I WISH
I COULD,
OZARK---



MUST'VE CAUGHT MY
SPIKES ON TH' BAG ---
HEARD SOMETHING
POP --- HOW DOES
IT LOOK?

(MOAN)
**PLUM
AWFUL!**

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SOME LUCK?... THAT
BUSTED ANKLE WILL
SIDELINE ZIP FOR
MONTHS!

SO SHAKE IT
UP, FELLUHS...
NOW WE GOTTA
WIN 'EM TH'
HARD WAY!

-AND AFTER A RUNNER
REPLACES ZALEN ON
SECOND BASE IN THE FIRST
INNING, THE NEXT BATTER
POPS OUT!...



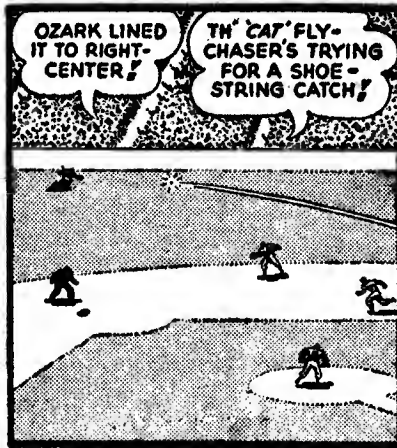
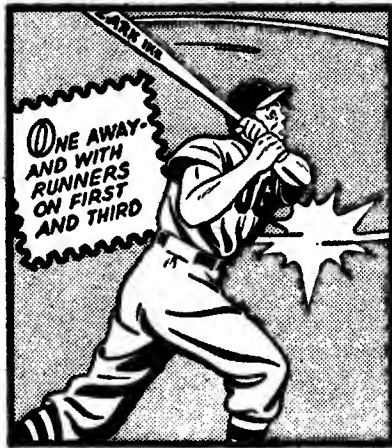
Gotto
5-14

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-BUT BEAN
ADVANCES
THE RUNNER
TO THIRD ON
A SCRATCH
HIT!

OZARK, WE
GOTTA WIN
THIS'N FER PO'
LI'L' ZIP!

SO AH BETTUH
TAG ONE AN' GIT US
AN' EARLY LEAD!



AS OZARK'S DRIVE
IS TRAPPED BY
THE 'CAT'
CENTER-FIELDER,
BUBBER BEAN
MISTAKENLY
SCRAMBLES BACK
TO TAG UP AT
FIRST.



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(GULP) AH
BEEN BUMPIN'
INTO YOU IN
TH' STRANGEST
PLACES
LATELY,
BUBBUN!

UH--IT'S GITTIN' DOWN-
RIGHT DANGEROUS
ON THESE HERE BASE
PATHS WITHOUT NO
TRAFFIC
LIGHTS!



OZARK'S OUT
FOR PASSING
A RUNNER...
AND BEAN
WAS TAGGED
OUT!

TH' KID
PLOWED
INTO A
DOUBLE PLAY...
AND TH' BUGS'
FIRST-
INNIN'
THREAT
IS DEAD!

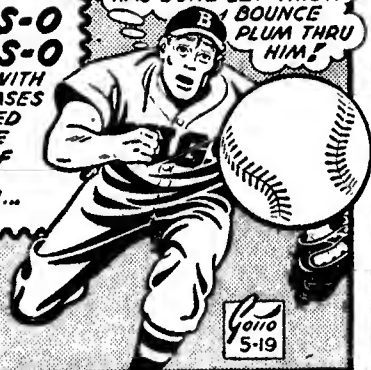




**CATS-O
BUGS-O**

-AND WITH
THE BASES
LOADED
IN THE
TOP OF
THE
NINTH...

(MOAN) TH' SUB FER
ZIP AT SHAWTSTOP
HAS DONE LET THIS'N
BOUNCE
PLUM THRU
HIM!



Gatto
5-19

NO PLAY HERE...
SO I'LL RIFLE IT TO
TH' HOT CORNER!



OUR CATCHUH NAILED
TH' RUNNUH A-SLIDIN'
INTO THUD!... AN
THERE GOES A
THROW T'SECOND...



THREE AWAY...
BUT TWO
BIG RUNS
ARE IN!



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**LET'S GO,
GANG!**

...
LAST OF TH' NINTH—
AND THOSE 'CATS'
ARE TWO RUNS
UP ON US!

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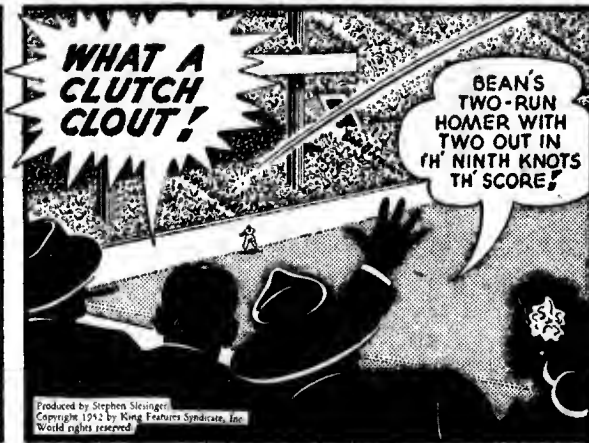
—AND A PINCH-
HITTER FOR THE
PITCHER LEADS
OFF WITH A
SINGLE ...

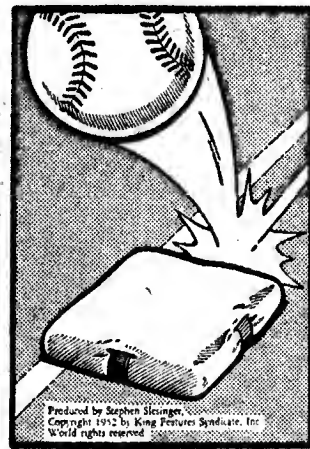
GOING
5-20

...BUT THE NEXT TWO BATTERS
GO DOWN SWINGING!

KEEP US ALIVE, BUDDY,
OR WE WON'T HAVE
NOTHIN' BUT **BAD**
NEWS FER ZIP
WHEN WE SEE
HIM T'NIGHT AT
TH' HOSSPITAL!

UN-- STAN' BY
FER A BULLETIN,
OZARK!





OZARK'S
LINER HIT
TH' BAG!

IT'S BOUNCING INTO
RIGHT FIELD!

A TWO-BASE BLOW IF'N AN
HUSTLE!...

...AN' WITH US
BUGS A-NEEDIN'
ONLY ONE MO'
RUN T' WIN
TH' GAME--

HEY!
-LOOKS
LIKE TH' TIME
IS RIPE FER
HITTIN' TH' ROAD
FER THUD
AWREADY!

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WITH THE SCORE
TIED, AND TWO
DOWN IN THE LAST
OF THE NINTH...

TH' THROW FROM
RIGHT FIELD GOT
BY TH' 'CAT'
SECOND
BASEMAN!

OZARK'S
OFF FOR
THIRD!



ROLLED PLUM
ACROSS TH'
LEF' FIELD
FOUL LINE TO
TH' STANDS!...
AN' HERE
COMES
OZARK
AROUN'
THUD...

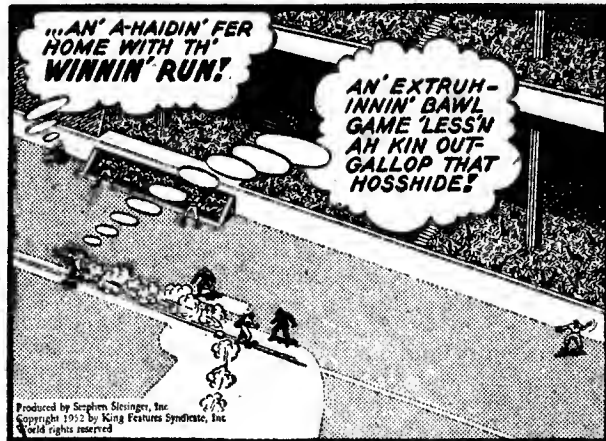
Gotto
5-24

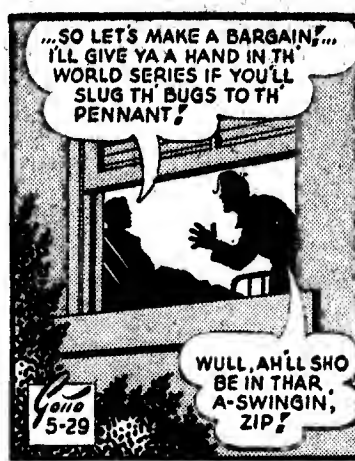
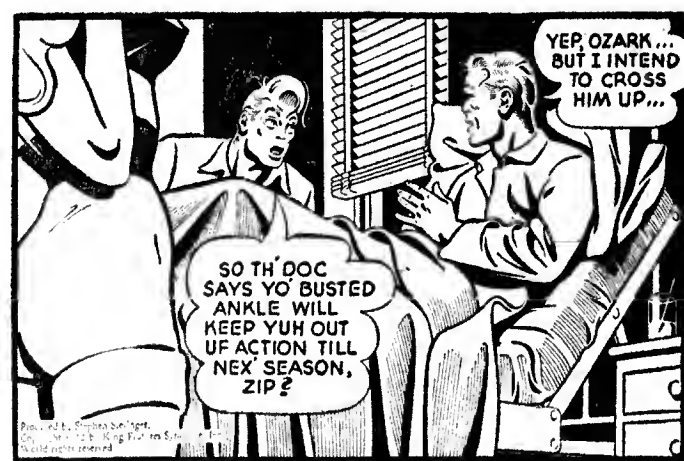


...AN' A-HAIDIN' FER
HOME WITH TH'
WINNIN' RUN!

AN' EXTRUH-
INNIN' BAWL
GAME 'LESS'N
AH KIN OUT-
GALLOP THAT
HOSSHIDE!

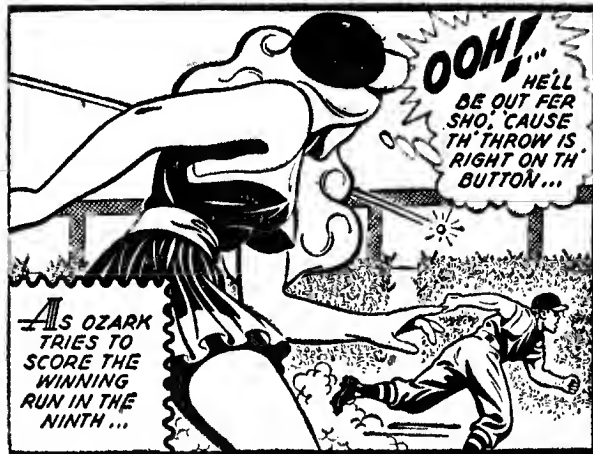
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**SOME
RALLY!**

THREE RUNS
AFTER TWO WERE
OUT IN TH'
NINTH!

TH' BUGS
WIN,
3 TO 2!

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OH, HONEY... TH' BAWL HIT
YUH SMACK ON TH' HAID
AS YUH SCORED TH'
WINNIN' RUN!...
ANY DAMAGE?

DON'T
KNOW, DINAH...
AH AIN'T TOOKEN
A LOOK AT TH'
BAWL YET!

...BUT ABOUT ZIR WE GOT
NO DOUBTS... SO LE'S DRESS
AN' GIT OUT TO TH'
HOSSPITUL!...

...WANTA SEE HOW
LONG THEY THINK
HIS BUSTED
ANKLE'S GONNA
KEEP HIM OUTA
TH' LINEUP!

UH--ANYTHING
INTRUSTIN' IN YO'
FAN MAIL, OZARK?

LISTEN T' THIS'N, BUBBUH...
A SHAWTSTOP NAMED
BUTCH LONGBOPP WANTS
ME T' GIT HIM A TRYOUT
WITH US BUGS...SAYS
HE'S BATTIN'
.887 IN HIS
LEAGUE!

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AN' HOW WE
NEED A SHAWT-
STOP!...UH--
RECKON HE
KIN GIVE US
A HAND?

NOT THIS SEASON,
ANYHOW...*BUTCH* AIN'T
BUT **NINE YEARS OLD!**

...AN' HERE'S
A BIG, FAT
LETTUH
FRUM--

YOW!
--AH
BEEN
SWINNUED!

THE UNDERSTATEMENT
OF THE CENTURY, OZARK!!

Gotto
5-31

-GROAN-
GIT A
LOAD UP THIS
HERE BILL
AH GOT IN
TH' MAIL,
BUBBUH!

UH-LOOKIT THEM FIGGUHS
A-TRAILIN' THAT DOLLUH
MARK...LIKE A STRING
UF NUMBUHS ON A BOX
CAR...

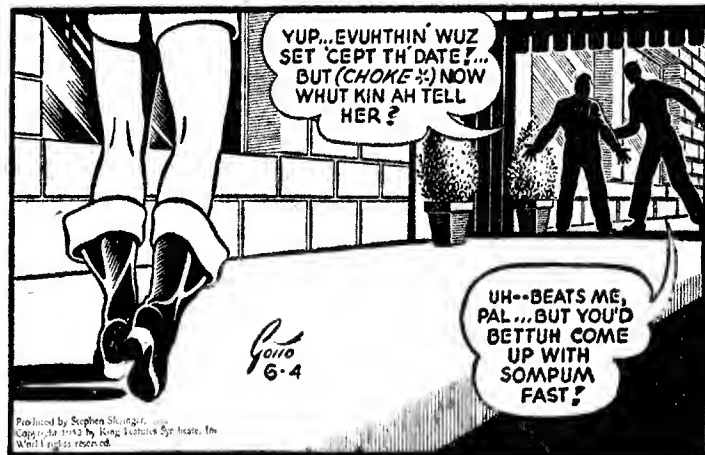
...IS THAT
OUR
NATIONAL
DEBT,
OZARK?

NOPE-HAPPENS
T' BE MAH
PUSSONAL DEBT
TO TH' HAWK-EYE
DETECTIVE
BOOREAU!

FER WHUT?...UH--
HAWK-EYE NEVUH
FOUND DINAH WHEN
SHE WUZ
MISSIN'!

NOPE-SHE SHOWED UP ALL
BY HERSELF...SO AH'M GONNA
PHONE HIM TH' FUST THING
IN TH' MAWNIN' AN' GIT THIS
MESS STRAIGHTENED
OUT!







SEEMS LIKE
EVUHTHINGS
GONE WRONG
LATELY,
DINAH!...

...AFTUH ZIP BUSTED
HIS ANKLE, US BUGS
WENT ON A
LOSIN' STREAK!...

...AN' NOW AH DONE FOUND
MAHSELF HAID OVUH HEELS
IN DEBT, AN' WITH
NOTHIN' T'
SHOW
FER IT!

WULL, DON'T
LET IT THROW
YUH, OZARK...
YOU GOT A
BARGAIN T'
KEEP WITH
ZIP...
REMEMBUH?

YUP... HE'S PROMISED
T'BE IN SHAPE FER TH'
WORLD SERIES IF N'
WE WIN TH' PENNANT...
AN' AH GOT NO
INTENTIONS UF
LETTIN' HIM DOWN!

NOW YOU'RE
TALKIN', HONEY...
SO LE'S GIT
OUT TO TH' PARK
FER OUR GAME
WITH TH' RAMS!

6-6

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GOOD!...WE SHO' BEEN
NEEDIN' SOMEBUDDY
T'PLUG TH' GAP SINCE
WE LOST ZIP ZALEN!...

UH--GUESS WHUT,
OZARK...FER TODAY'S
GAME WITH TH' RAMS
WE GOT A NEW
SHAWTSTOP!

...BUT WHO
IS TH' GENT.
BUBBUH?

UH--A FELLUH
THEY JUS' BRUNG
UP FRUM TH' COAST
LEAGUE...AN' YONDUH
HE IS!



Going
6-7

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OH-NO! (MOAN)
N-NOT HIM!!



WHO?







**RAMS
VS.
BUGS**

-AND THE FIRST
PITCH OF THE
GAME IS LINED
TO ROOKIE
SHORTSTOP
ELMER
HORNBLÖ...

HA!...WHAT A
DEBUT!...I'LL MAKE
TH' FANS FORGET
ALL ABOUT ZIP
ZALEN!

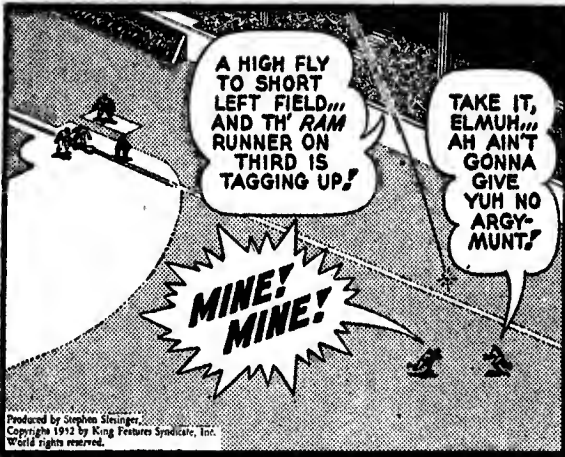
ONE AWAY...AND THE
NEXT RAM BATTER
SMASHES A TRIPLE TO
DEEP RIGHT-CENTER...

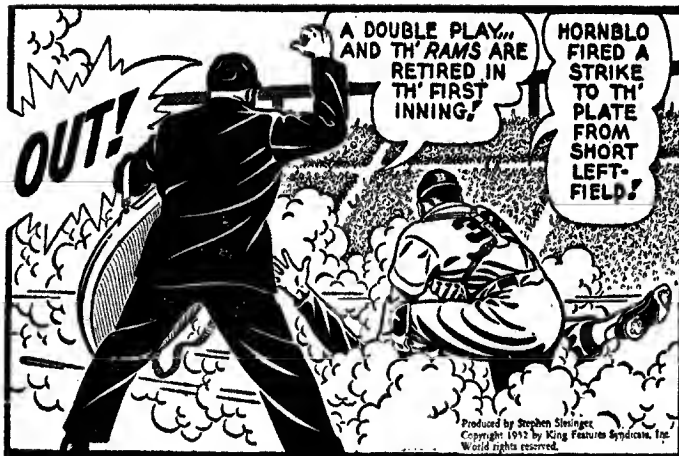
-THEN A
TOWERING
FLY IS
LIFTED
NYTO SHORT
LEFT FIELD,
AND AS
HORNBLÖ
RACES
BACK...

Yellie
6-12

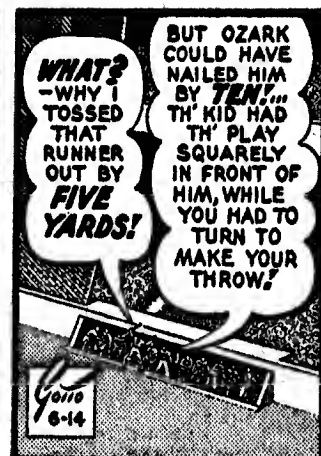
DON'T FORGET THE
RUNNER TAGGING UP
AT THIRD, ELMER!

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ELMUH HORNBLÖ'S
LEADIN' OFF FER
US BUGS, OZARK?

YUP, DINAH...
RIGHT IN ZIP'S
OL' SPOT!

AFTER THE
RAMS ARE
RETIRED IN
THE FIRST
FRAME

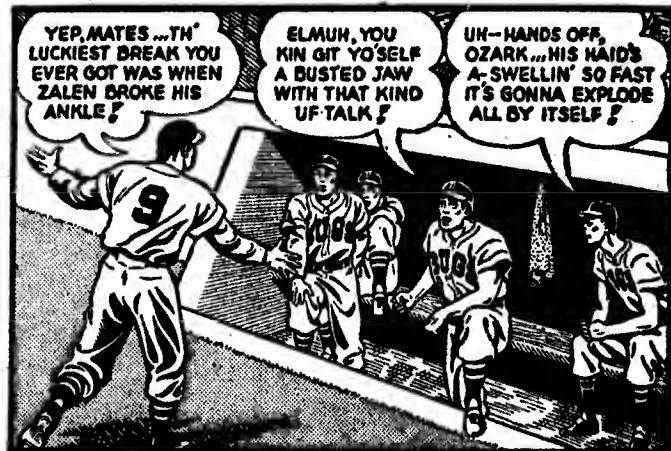
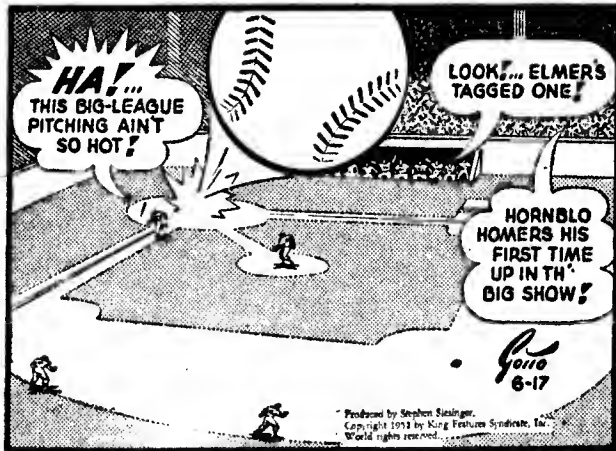
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RIDICULOUS...WASTING
MY POWER AT TH' TOP
OF TH' BATTING ORDER...
SKIP WILL SOON SEE
THAT I BELONG IN TH'
CLEAN-UP SLOT!

AIN'T GOT A LINE ON
THIS ROOKIE YET...
GOTTA TAKE CHANCES
UNTIL I LOCATE HIS
SOFT SPOTS!

GOING
6-16

AN...THIS ONE
I'LL LOSE!



DOUBLE **TRIPLE** **SINGLE**
SINGLE **HOME** **WALK** **WALK**
RUN **SINGLE**

AFTER
 HORNBLO
 LEADS OFF
 WITH A
 HOMER IN
 THE FIRST
 INNING...

Go 110
 6-18

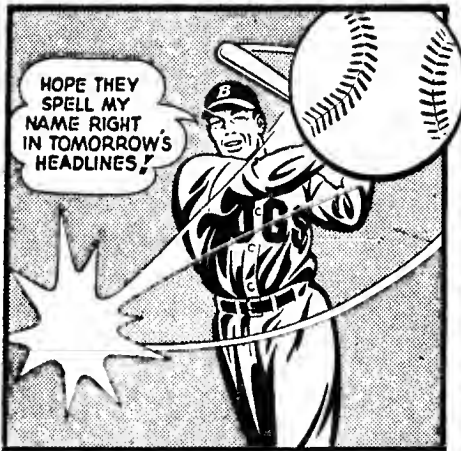
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HOT DAWGS, DINAH!...
 LOOKS LIKE WE DONE
 BUSTED OUR LOSIN'
 STREAK!

BATTED
 PLUM AROUND
 AWREADY...
 AN' ELMUH'S
 UP AT TH'
 PLATE AS IN!

I CLOUTED TH' FIRST ONE
 LEFT-HANDED... BUT NOW
 THEY'VE GOT A SOUTH-
 PAW ON TH' MOUND, SO...

7%
 SWITCH
 HITTER!



INNING
RAMS
BUGS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
0	3	0	1	2	1	0	2	1		
9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0			



AS THE SWITCH-
HITTING ROOKIE
ELMER
HORNBLÖ
BREAKS INTO
THE MAJORS
WITH A
HOME RUN,
DOUBLE AND
TWO SINGLES...



ALL TIED
UP IN TH'
NINTH,
OZARK!

YUP, DINAH...OUR
BIG, FAT NINE-
RUN LEAD SHO
MELTED
AWAY!

HEAD FOR TH'
SHOWERS, MATES...
OL' ELMER'S ABOUT
TO FINISH IT
WITH HIS
**FIFTH
HIT!**

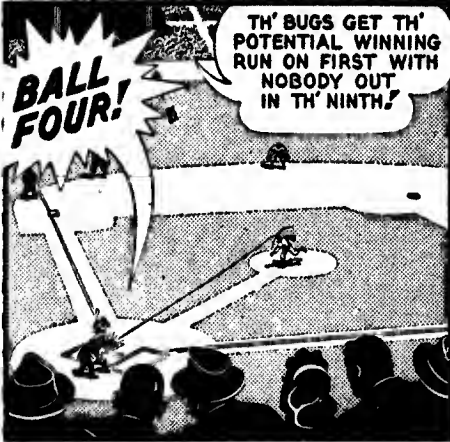


Gallo
6-20

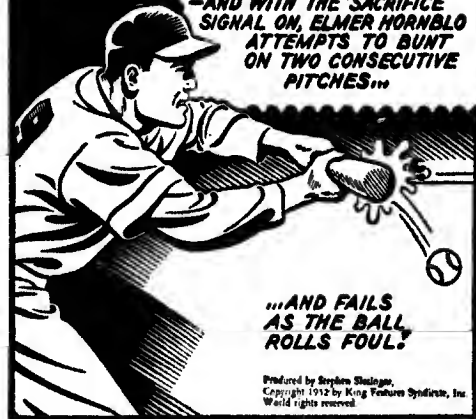
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BALL FOUR!

TH' BUGS GET TH' POTENTIAL WINNING RUN ON FIRST WITH NOBODY OUT IN TH' NINTH!



-AND WITH THE SACRIFICE SIGNAL ON, ELMER HORNBL0 ATTEMPTS TO BUNT ON TWO CONSECUTIVE PITCHES...



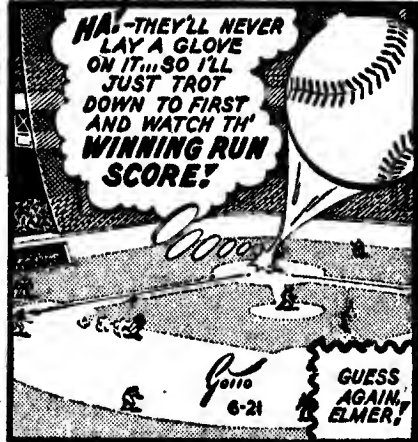
...AND FAILS AS THE BALL ROLLS FOUL!

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SO WHAT?...NOW I CAN SMACK TH' BLOW THAT'LL MAKE ME TH' HERO OF TH' DAY!



HA...THEY'LL NEVER LAY A GLOVE ON IT...SO I'LL JUST TROT DOWN TO FIRST AND WATCH TH' WINNING RUN SCORE!



GUESS AGAIN, ELMER!

**RAMS-10
BUGS-10**

- AND WITH
NOBODY OUT
AND A BUG
RUNNER ON
FIRST IN
THE LAST OF
THE NINTH,
ELMER
HORNBL0
SMASHES A
LONG DRIVE
TO CENTER...

INTO TH'
CORNER FOR
HORNBL0'S
FIFTH HIT!

TH' WINNING
RUN IS
ROUNDING
SECOND!

HA!... IT'S ALL OVER
BUT THE SCORING... SO
ALL I GOTTA DO IS TROT
DOWN TO FIRST AND
TAG TH' BAG!

BUT FAST
FIELDING AND
A PERFECT
RELAY THROW
NAIL THE
RUNNER...

OUT!

WHY, THAT LEAD-
FOOTED LUG!...
IF HE'D ONLY
HUSTLED...

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TH' WINNING
RUN THROWN
OUT, TRYING TO
SCORE ON
HORNBLÖ'S
BELT TO TH'
CENTER-FIELD
CORNER...

... BUT THERE'S
ONLY ONE
DOWN, AND
ELMER'S
ON-- ON--

--FIRST BASE!?
WHY, TH' LUG SHOULD HAVE
REACHED THIRD ON THAT PLAY
AT TH' PLATE!

OF ALL TH'
LUCK!...
THOUGHT HE'D
SCORE EASILY
AND WE'D BE
ON OUR WAY
TO TH' CLUB-
HOUSE
BY NOW!

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AND AS THE
NEXT BATTER
DRILLS A HIT
TO RIGHT FIELD...

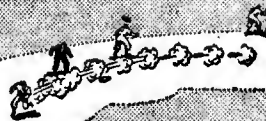
NOW I'LL SHOW
'EM SOME REAL
BASE-RUNNING!

Goite
6-24

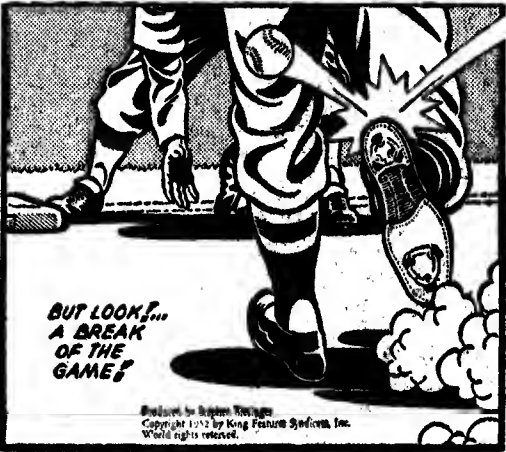
HORNBLO'S
TRYING TO GO
FROM FIRST TO
THIRD ON A
SINGLE
TO RIGHT!...

...AND AGAINST
ONE OF THE
BEST ARMS IN
BASEBALL!

HE AIN'T
GOT A
CHANCE!



GOING
6-25



BUT LOOK!...
A BREAK
OF THE
GAME!

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- AND THE BUGS HAVE THE
WINNING RUN ON THIRD WITH
ONLY ONE AWAY!



AS ELMER HORNBLO
ATTEMPTS TO STEAL
HOME WITH THE
WINNING RUN IN
THE LAST OF THE
NINTH ...



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(GULP) TH' STEAL SIGNUL
WUZNT ON, BUT HERE
COMES ELMUH... AN' HE AINT
GOT TH' CHANCE UF AN
ICEBERG IN HOT
SPRINGS!...

6-27



... ONLY ONE WAY T'
KEEP HIM FRUM
GITTIN' TAGGED
OUT...



WITH TWO DOWN
IN THE NINTH, AND
RUNNING AGAINST
SIGNALS, HORNBL
TRIES TO STEAL
HOME...

★OUL #!!
-HAD THIS ROOKIE
OUT BY A MILE
UNTIL TH'
OZARK KID
BUNTED!

ELMUN'S IN WITH
TH' WINNIN' RUN... BUT
IT AIN'T GONNA
COUNT 'LESS'N OZARK
GITS T' FUST
SAFELY...

**HURRY,
HONEY!**

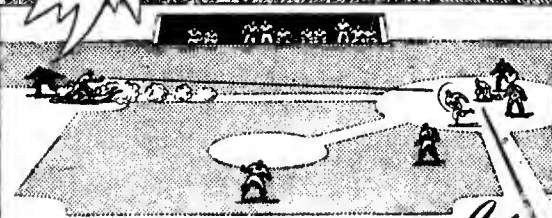
Go! 6-28

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SAFE!

HORNBLO
SCORES AS
OZARK IKE
BEATS OUT
A BUNT!

TH' BUGS
WIN,
11 TO 10!



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Page
6-30

- SO THE OZARK KID
SAVES THE DAY BY LAYING
ONE DOWN... AND JUST
WHEN HORNBLO WAS
ABOUT TO BE TAGGED OUT
ON HIS ATTEMPTED
STEAL OF HOME!

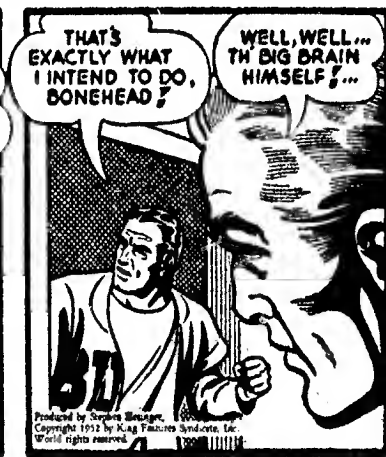


- BUT LET'S
TUNE IN ON
ELMER...

WITH A HOOK SLIDE
I WOULD'VE SCORED
ANYWAY... BUT THAT
HEADLINE - HAPPY
HAYSEED COULDN'T
STAND FOR ME TO
GRAB ALL TH'
GLORY...

...AND DON'T
THINK I WON'T
TELL HIM OFF
WHEN WE GET
IN TH' CLUB-
HOUSE!





HORNBLO, THIS BALL CLUB IS PAYING A MANAGER AND A STAFF OF COACHES TO DIRECT ITS STRATEGY...

...SO WHY THE ATTEMPT TO STEAL HOME WITHOUT A SIGNAL?

FIGURED I'D CROSS 'EM UP, SKIP...

...AND YOU GOTTA ADMIT IT PAID OFF WITH TH' WINNING RUN!

WITH OZARK'S HELP, YES... BUT WIN OR LOSE, IT WAS A ROCK IN MY BOOK!

WELL, AT LEAST YOU CAN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT MY FIELDING... A DOZEN TOUGH CHANCES I HANDLED WITHOUT AN ERROR!

NO MUFFS WITH YOUR GLOVE, ELMER, BUT PLENTY WITH YOUR HEAD!


AW, THAT KIND WON'T SHOW IN TH' BOX SCORE!



HOW 'BOUT THAT, BUBBUH?..
WE DONE SHOWUHD AN' GOT
ALL DRESSED UP
WHILE ELMUH'S
BEEN IN THAR
WITH MANAGUH
SKELLEY?

UH--GITTIN'
A DRESSIN'-
DOWN,
NO DOUBT?

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OKAY, SKIP, MAYBE I DID
MAKE SOME MENTAL
MISTAKES... BUT YOU
CAN'T QUARREL WITH
THOSE FIVE SOLID BASE
HITS I GOT?

TRUE
ENOUGH, ELMER...
BUT TH'
BIGGEST
BLOW OF TH'
DAY TRAVELED
NO MORE
THAN TEN
FEET...

7-3



...AND IT
WON
TH'
GAME!

SOME JUSTICE... I BLAST
TH' BALL ALL OVER TH' LOT-
AND OZARK STEALS TH'
HEADLINES WITH A BUNT!

SOME SLUGGIN',
SKIP... ELMER HORNBLÖ
LOOKED GREAT IN HIS
FIRST GAME AT
SHORTSTOP
FOR US...



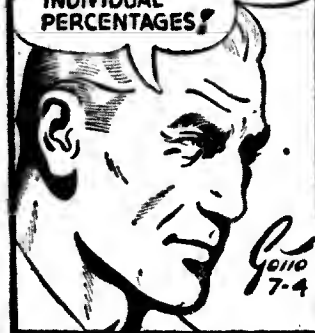
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...AND IF TH' ROOKIE CONTINUES
HIS SENSATIONAL HITTING WE'LL
NEVER MISS ZIP ZALEN
IN OUR DRIVE FOR TH'
FLAG!

HOPE YOU'RE
RIGHT, J.P. -

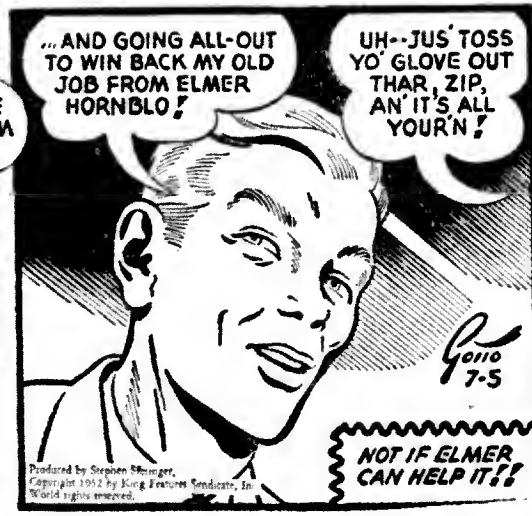


...BUT ELMER'S ONLY
CONCERN SEEMS TO BE HIS
PERSONAL SHOWING.
WHEREAS A TEAM-MAN
LIKE ZALEN PLAYS TO WIN
WITHOUT REGARD TO
INDIVIDUAL
PERCENTAGES!



WELL, KEEP
AFTER HIM,
SKIP... AT
THIS STAGE
OF TH'
RACE WE
GOTTA SINK
OR SWIM WITH
OUR BONUS
BABY!







ZIP, WE'D BE ON
TOP AN' A-WINGIN'
AWAY IF'N YUH
HADN'T BUSTED
THAT ANKLE!

UH--WE AIN'T HAD
NOTHIN' BUT
TROUBLE AT
SHAWTSTOP
SINCE YUH BEEN
SIDELINED!

WHO YA
KIDDIN',
PALS?...

MIDSEASON...
AND WITH THE
BUGS SIX FULL
GAMES OUT OF
FIRST PLACE...

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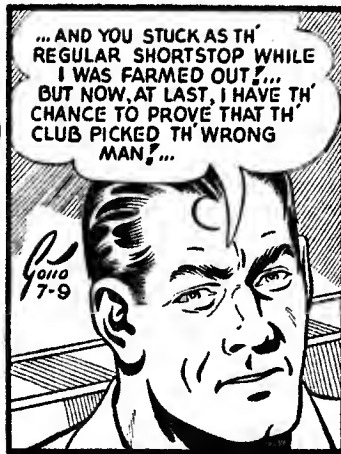
...TH' GUY TH' CLUB
JUST BROUGHT UP FROM
TH' COAST LEAGUE SEEMS
TO BE PLUGGIN'
TH' GAP IN GREAT
STYLE ...

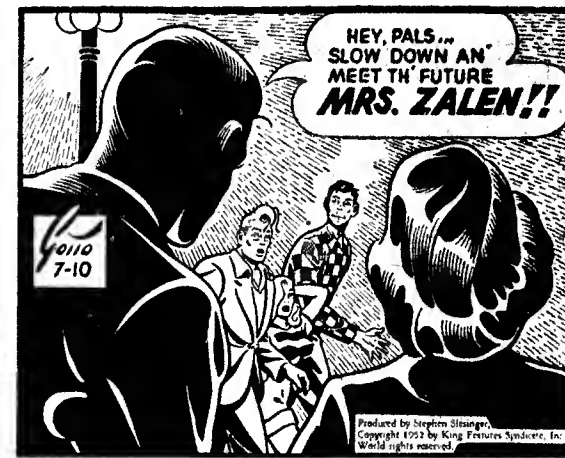


... BUT YOU CAN BET I'LL
BE OUT OF THIS CAST AND
FIGHTING MY WAY BACK
INTO TH' LINEUP BEFORE
WORLD SERIES TIME!

Goito
7-7









**AS THE BUGS
DRESS FOR THEIR
GAME WITH
THE LIONS...**

**HOW 'BOUT THAT,
BUBBUH?? OL' ZIP'S
DONE GOT HIS-
SELF ENGAGED?**

**UH--YUP, OZARK, AN'
HIS BRIDE-TO-BE IS
GONNA BE IN TH'
STANDS T'DAY,
A-LOOKIN' AT HER
FUST BIG-LEAGUE
GAME!...**

**... BUT SHE AIN'T LIKELY
T'SEE MUCH HITIN', 'CAUSE WE
GOTTA FACE 'LEFTY' SPADE,
WHO'S BEEN GOIN' LIKE
A HOUSE AFIRE
ALL SEASON?**

**WULL, WE GOT SPIKE
KLEATS FLINGIN' FER
US, SO---**

**SO JUST GET ME
A COUPLE OF RUNS,
MATES, AND I'LL
TAME THOSE
LIONS!**

**A PITCHERS'
BATTLE?**

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ZIP, IF THIS IS
PART OF THE LIFE
OF A 'BASEBALL WIFE',
I'M GONNA
LIKE IT!

SURE YOU WILL, JERRY...
WHEN WE'RE WINNING!...
BUT IT CAN GET PLENTY
ROUGH WHEN WE'RE
LOSING!...

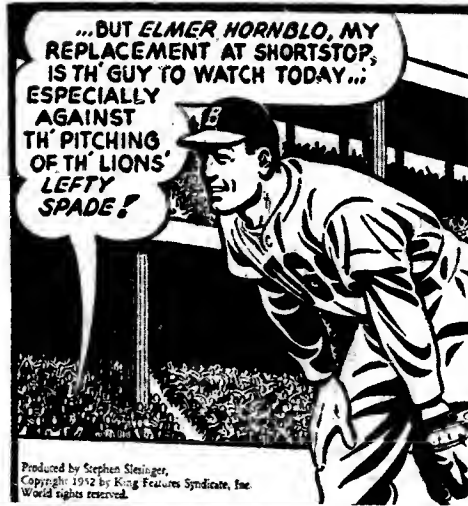
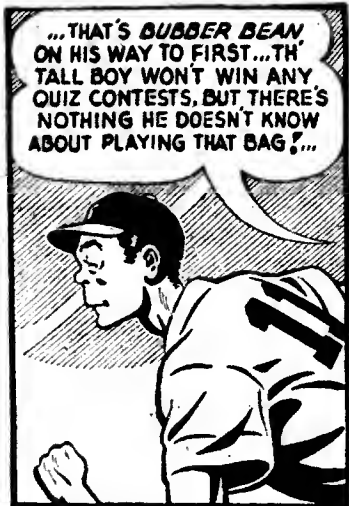
WARM-UP
TIME... AND
WITH THE
BUGS
INJURED
SHORTSTOP
IN THE
STANDS...

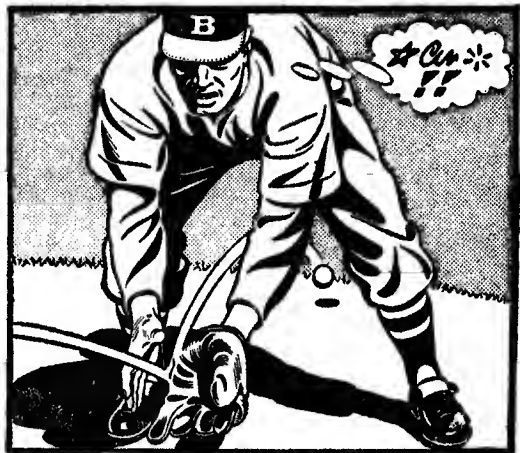
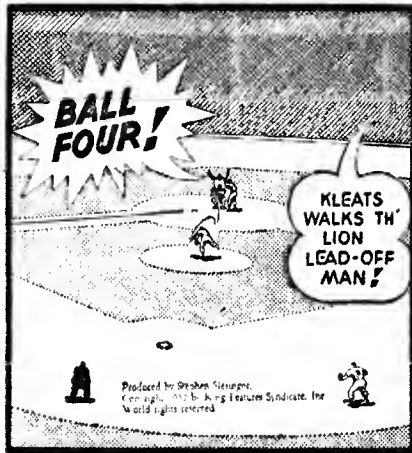
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...AND NOW LET'S SEE
WHO'S PITCHING...
THAT'S OUR ACE SPIKE
KLEATS WARMING
UP FOR US!...

Go 110
7-14

...AND FOR TH' LIONS
IT'S LEFTY SPADE!...
AND IF HIS FAST ONE
IS HOPPING TODAY,
THIS COULD BE ONE
OF THOSE ROUGH
GAMES
FOR US!





A FREE PASS AND
HORNBLÖ'S ERROR
HAS KLEATS IN
TROUBLE ALREADY
IN TH' FIRST
FRAME!

MEN ON FIRST
AND SECOND
FOR TH' LIONS,
WITH NOBODY
OUT!

-AND THE RUNNERS ARE OFF
WITH THE CRACK OF THE BAT
AS THE NEXT PITCH IS LINED
TO THE LEFT OF SECOND BASE...

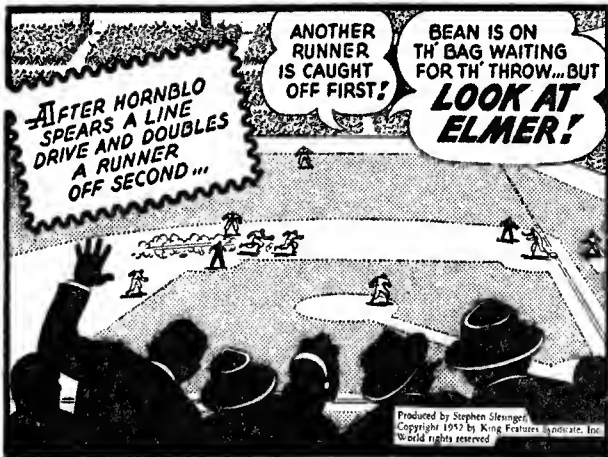
-BUT ELMER
FLAGS IT WITH
A SENSATIONAL
CATCH!

HA! -TH' PERFECT
SET-UP FOR AN UN-
ASSISTED TRIPLE
PLAY...

...IF I CAN OVERHAUL
THIS RUNNER BEFORE
HE SCRAMBLES
BACK TO FIRST!

Go! 10
7-17

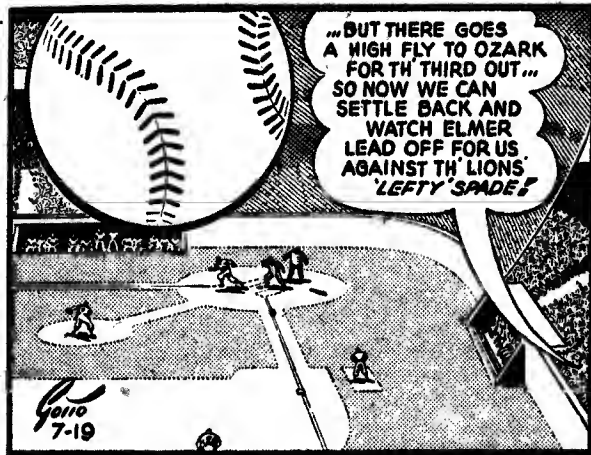
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ZIP, WHAT
HAPPENED?

ELMER HORNBL
JUST MESSED UP
WHAT SHOULD HAVE
BEEN AN EASY
TRIPLE PLAY,
JERRY!!!

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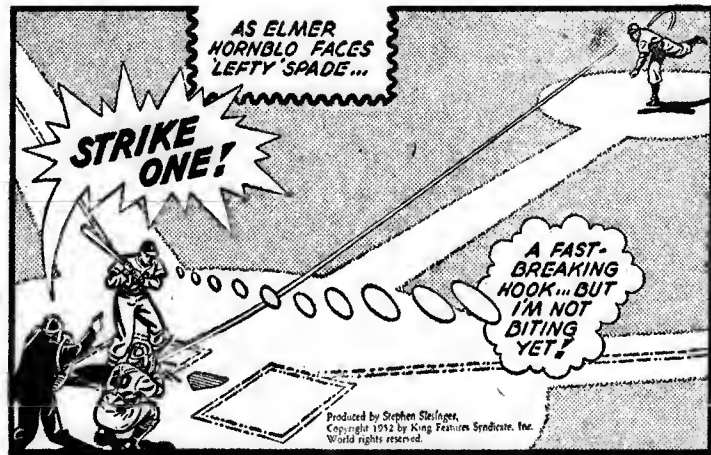
...BUT THERE GOES
A HIGH FLY TO OZARK
FOR TH' THIRD OUT...
SO NOW WE CAN
SETTLE BACK AND
WATCH ELMER
LEAD OFF FOR US
AGAINST TH' LIONS'
'LEFTY' SPADE!



5 FOR 5 I GOT
YESTERDAY... AND
IF I CONTINUE
MY RED-HOT
HITTING
STREAK,
SKIP WILL
OVERLOOK
TH' ROCK
I JUST
PULLED!

BUT WAIT'LL YOU
SEE LEFTY'S BLAZING
FAST BALL, ELMER!!







**AFTER
EIGHT
SCORELESS
INNINGS...**

SO THIS
IS A
PITCHERS'
BATTLE,
ZIP?

ALL TH' WAY,
JERRY... 'LEFTY'
SPADE HAS
ALLOWED ONLY
THREE SCATTERED
HITS...

...AND SPIKE KLEATS
IS TAKING TH' MOUND
IN TH' NINTH WITH
A TWO-HIT SHUT-
OUT GOING
FOR HIM!

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-AND AFTER THE FIRST
BATTER FLIES' OUT TO
OZARK IN LEFT...

GOITTO
7-24

THE NEXT PITCH IS BELTED FOR A SINGLE...
AND THE POTENTIAL WINNING RUN
IS ON BASE!

ONE AWAY, AND
THE LIONS HAVE
A RUNNER ON
FIRST... BUT SHORT-
STOP HORNBLÖ'S
THOUGHTS ARE
ELSEWHERE...

FOUR TIMES UP
WITHOUT A BASE
HIT... SO WITH FIVE
FOR NINE, WHAT'S
MY BATTING
AVERAGE?...

**STRIKE
THREE!**

LOOK?... HE'S
TRYING TO STEAL
SECOND!

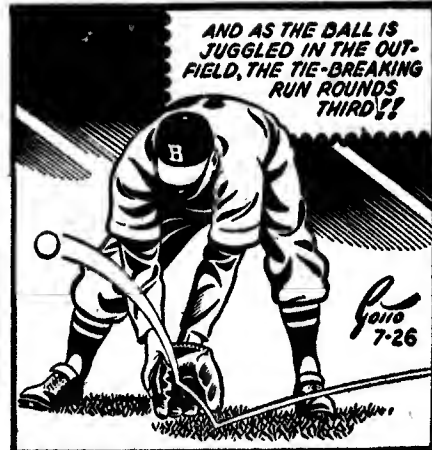
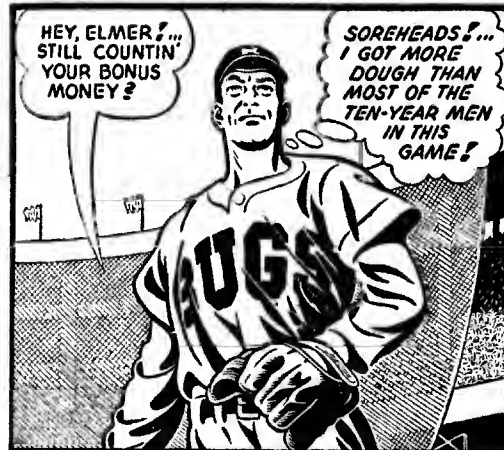
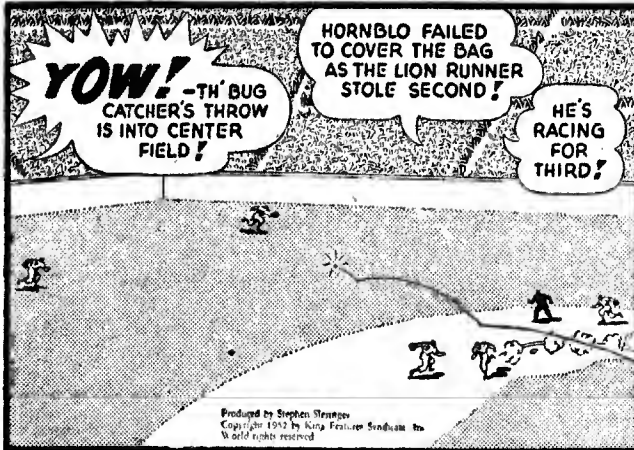
...5000
DIVIDED BY
9 EQUALS...
HM-M-M...
5--

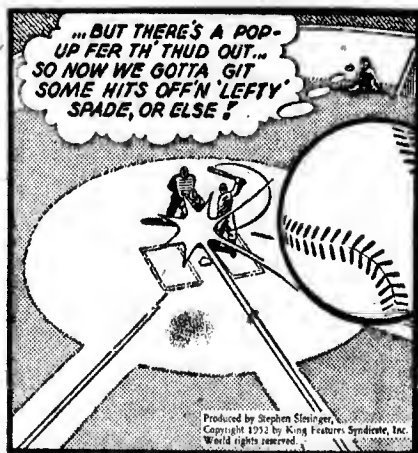
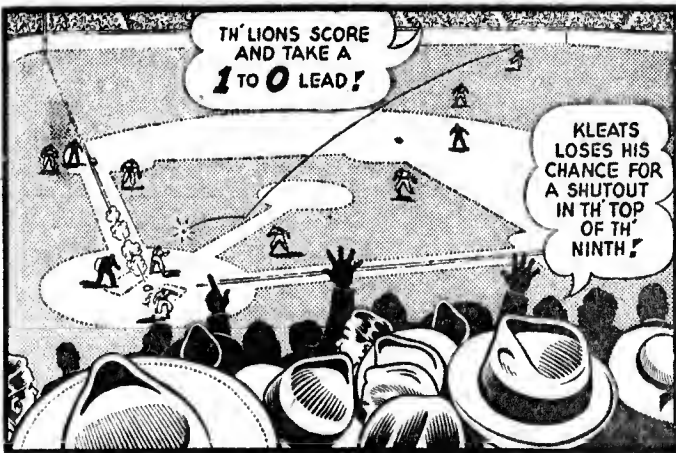
GOING
7-25

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HEY!

-WAS I SUPPOSED
TO COVER TH' BAG?







LAST OF TH' NINTH,
OZARK ... AND OUR

LAST CHANCE!

YUP, ZIP... BUT WE
GOT TH' TOP UF OUR
BATTIN' ORDUH
A-COMIN' UP...

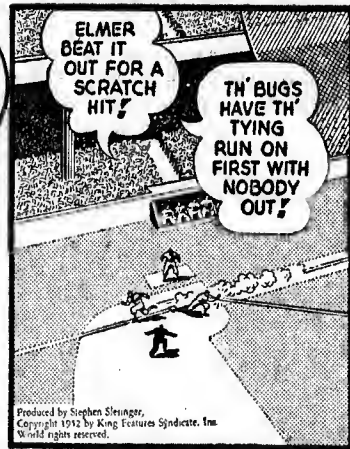


...AN' US BUGS ARE
LONG OVUHDUE T' RAP
'LEFTY' SPADE FER
A BATCH UF
BASE HITS!

Gallo
7-29



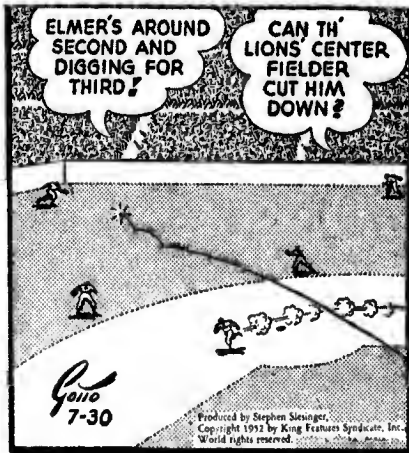
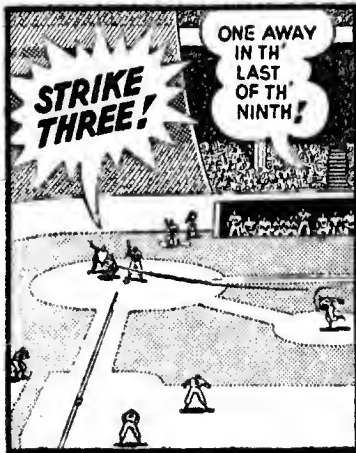
-AND AS
HORNBL0
LEADS
OFF...



ELMER
BEAT IT
OUT FOR A
SCRATCH
HIT!

TH' BUGS
HAVE TH'
TYING
RUN ON
FIRST WITH
NOBODY
OUT!

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AS ELMER HORNBLO GOES
FROM FIRST TO THIRD ON
BEAN'S SINGLE TO CENTER...

UH--PLENNY
UF TIME FER
ME T'SNEAK
INTO SECOND
ON TH'
THROW!



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TH' TYING
AND WINNING
RUNS ARE
IN SCORING
POSITION!

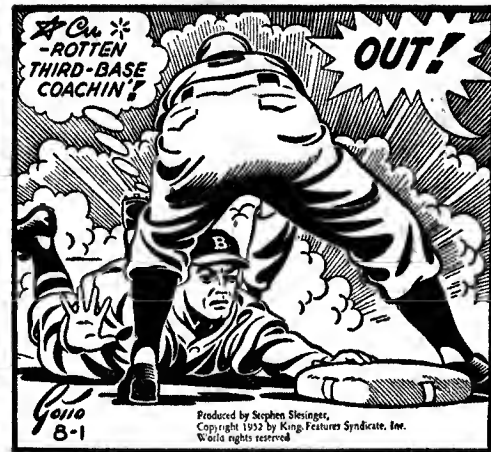
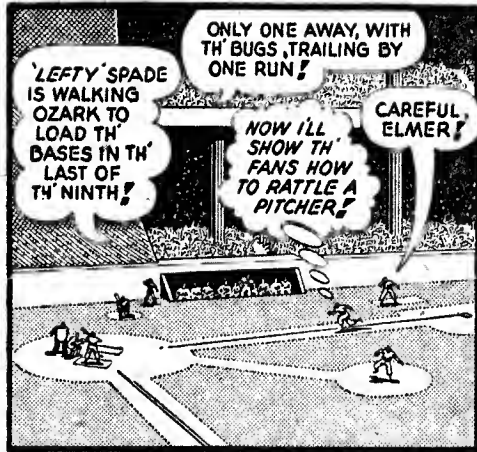
ONLY ONE DOWN
IN TH' LAST OF
TH' NINTH...AND
**LOOK WHO'S
COMING UP!**

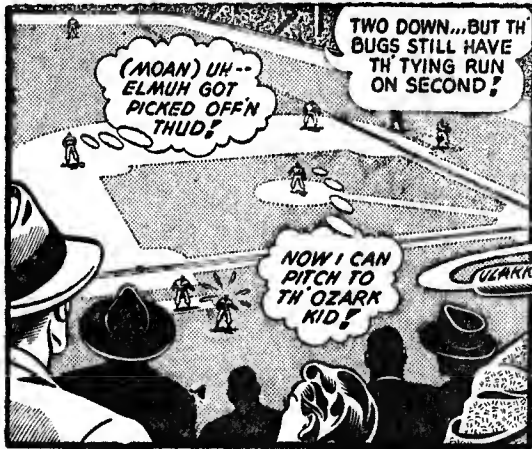
IT'S GONNA
BE A REAL
PLEASURE
TO GIVE TH'
OZARK KID
A FREE
PASS TO
FIRST!

IF N' LEFTY,
WILL JUS
FLING ME
ONE AH
KIN
REACH!



Go! 10
7-31





(MOAN) UH--
ELMUH GOT
PICKED OFF'N
THUD!

TWO DOWN...BUT TH'
BUGS STILL HAVE
TH' TYING RUN
ON SECOND!

NOW I CAN
PITCH TO
TH' OZARK
KID!



-AND AS 'LEFTY'
FIRES HIS
FAST ONE...

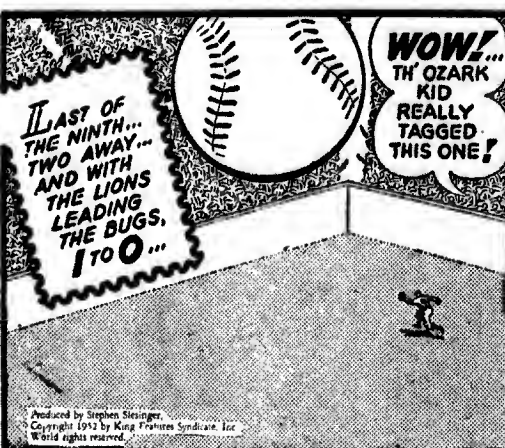
THESE TWO-NOTHIN'
PITCHES IS WHUT AH
DIG TH' MOSTES!



UH--OUR BAWL
GAME IF'N IT'S
GONE...AN' THEIRS
(CROSS M'
FINGUHS)
IF'N IT'S
CAUGHT!

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Go! 8-2







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WE WIN, JERRY...
ON OZARK'S
INSIDE-TH'-
PARK
HOMER?...!

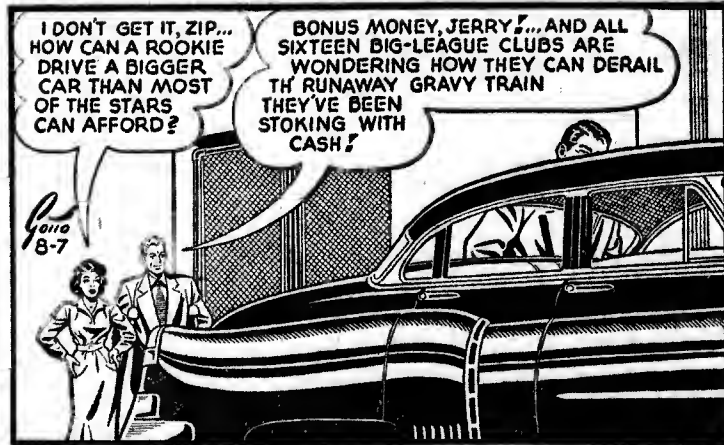
...AND THAT'S TH'
KIND OF CLUTCH
HITTING THAT'S GONNA
WIN US TH' PENNANT!...
SO HOW'S THIS
FOR AN IDEA?...!

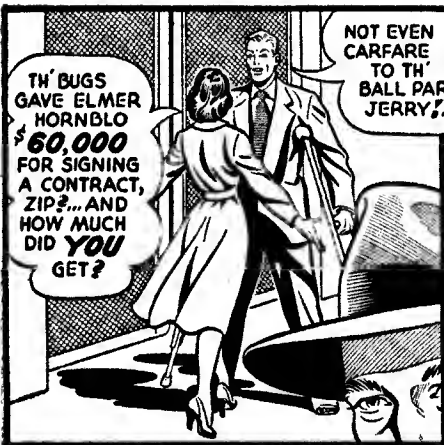
Gallo
8-6



...LET'S GET
MARRIED ON
TH' DAY TH'
BUGS CLINCH
TH' FLAG!...

HONEY, THAT'S
TH' KIND OF
HOME RUN
I'VE BEEN
WAITING
FOR!...





TH' BUGS
GAVE ELMER
HORNBLO
\$60,000
FOR SIGNING
A CONTRACT,
ZIP?... AND
HOW MUCH
DID **YOU**
GET?

NOT EVEN
CARFARE
TO TH'
BALL PARK,
JERRY!...



...AND I WAS TH' HAPPIEST
GUY YOU'LL EVER SEE WHEN
THEY JUST OFFERED ME
A CHANCE TO PLAY
BALL EVERY DAY!...

Gotto
8-8

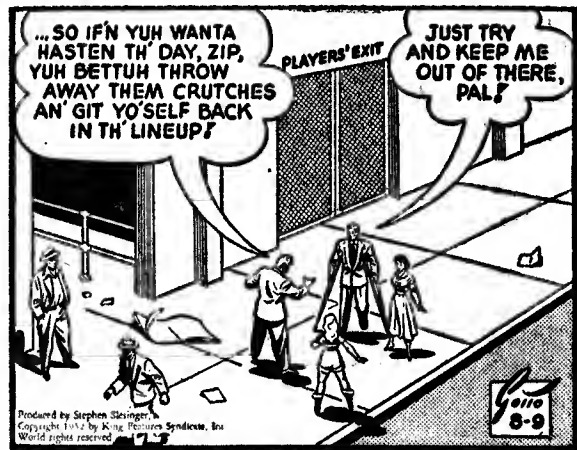


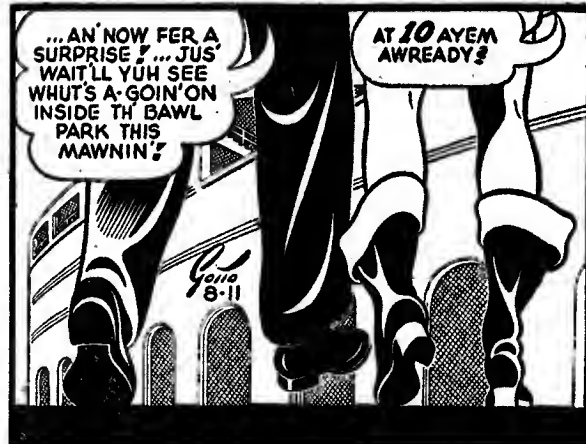
BUT YOU CAN'T BLAME
THOSE SCHOOLBOYS FOR
GRABBING TH' HIGHEST BID!...
ONLY THINK HOW IT MAKES
A VETERAN FEEL ...

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...AFTER FIGHTING HIS WAY UP
THROUGH TH' MINORS AND INTO
TH' BIG SHOW, ALONG COMES
A KID WHO'S PAID MORE
BEFORE HE SWINGS A BAT
THAN THE OLD PRO HAS
MADE IN HIS ENTIRE
CAREER!







OZARK, WHY ARE
THESE PLAYUHS
OUT HERE SO
EARLY IN TH'
MAWNIN'?


THAR'S TH'
ANSWER,
DINAH,
A-STEPPIN'
INTO TH'
BATTIN'
CAGE!

Go 110
8-12

**ZIP
ZALEN!**

YUP...HE'S DONE
GOT TH' CAST OFFN
HIS ANKLE AN'
COMMENCED
WORKIN' OUT!

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WULL, IF'N ZIP KIN GIT IN
SHAPE T'TAKE OVUH AGIN,
AT SHAWTSTOP, US BUGS'LL
SHO' BE IN CLOVUH?

AN' ANOTHUH
WORLD
SERIES!



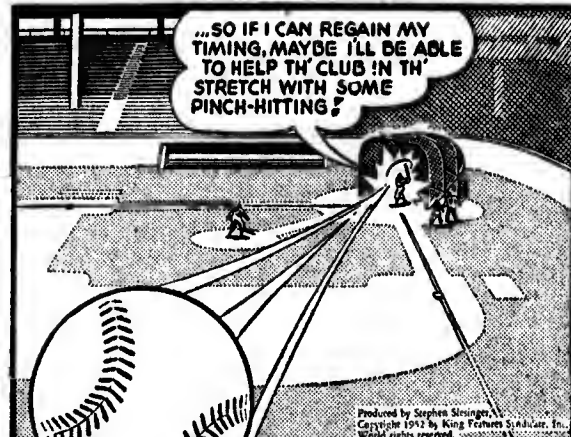
WHUT A
SIGHT FER
SORE EYES...
ZIP ZALEN
BACK IN
UNIFAWM?

HOW'S YO'
ANKLE
FEELIN',
ZIP?



TOO STIFF TO ALLOW ME TO
MANEUVER AT SHORTSTOP,
OZARK... BUT IT ISN'T HINDERING
MY STRIDE AT TH' PLATE ...

8-13



...SO IF I CAN REGAIN MY
TIMING, MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE
TO HELP TH' CLUB IN TH'
STRETCH WITH SOME
PINCH-HITTING?

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RUN-RUN-
RUN...DAY
AFTER DAY...
AND AS
ZIP ZALEN'S
ANKLE GROWS
STRONGER AND
STRONGER...

BUGS 8 - CATS 4

OZARK IKE'S CLOUTING KEEPS
BUGS PENNANT HOPES ALIVE

CATS 2 - BUGS 1

SHORTSTOP HORNBLÖ'S TWO
MISCUES IN NINTH FATAL

BUGS STAGGER INTO FINAL WEEK 3 ½ GAMES OFF PACE

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Go! 8-14

SKIP, WE AIN'T
GOT A CHANCE
WITHOUT
ZALEN
BACK IN
THERE
AT
SHORT!



JUST WHAT I'VE
BEEN THINKING,
J.P. - SO TO-
MORROW I'LL
SEE IF HE'S
READY
TO GO!

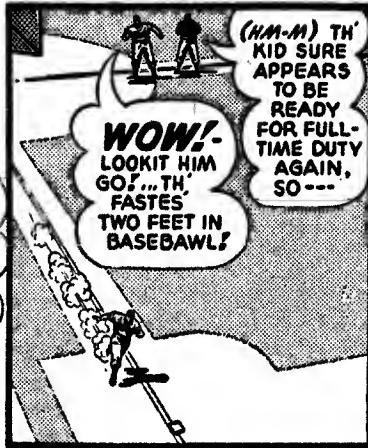
ONLY A WEEK LEFT
IN TH' CAMPAIGN, ZIP...
SO HOW'S THAT ANKLE
SHAPING
UP?

SKIP, I'M READY
FOR ACTION!...

PRE-GAME
BATTING
PRACTICE...

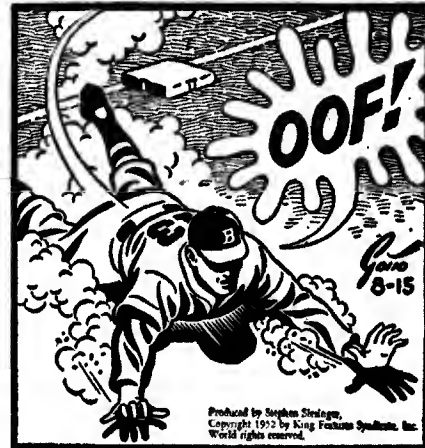


...JUST
WATCH ME
LAY THIS
ONE DOWN
AND
CIRCLE
TH' SACKS!

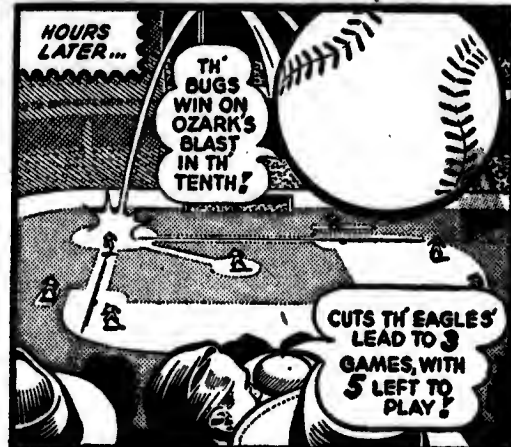
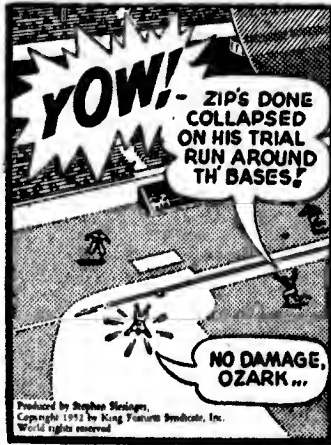


WOW!-
LOOKIT HIM
GO!... TH'
FASTES
TWO FEET IN
BASEBAWL!

(HM-M) TH'
KID SURE
APPEARS
TO BE
READY
FOR FULL-
TIME DUTY
AGAIN,
SO ---



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BUGS WIN TWIN BILL

SLICE EAGLES' LEAD TO 2 GAMES

OZARK'S BOOMING BAT KEEPS BUGS IN PENNANT SCRAMBLE

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ONLY THREE GAMES T' PLAY, OZARK!

BUT US BUGS STILL HAVE A FIGHTIN' CHANCE, DINAH... THANKS TO A BREAK IN TH' SCHEDULE!

THEM EAGLES HAVE GOTTA PLAY US IN ALL THEM FINAL GAMES, SO IF'N WE SWEEP TH' SERIES WE'LL BE SMACK IN TH' WORLD SERIES!

BUT JUS' ONE LOSS AN' WE'LL BE PLUM OUTA LUCK!

Page
8-18

NEVER FELT SO HELPLESS
IN MY LIFE ...WARMIN' TH'
BENCH WHILE YOU GUYS
WAGE AN UPHILL BATTLE
FOR TH' PENNANT!

WULL, DON'T
COUNT
YO' SELF
OUT YET,
ZIP!...

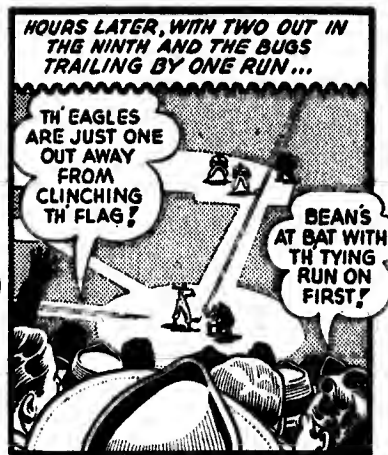
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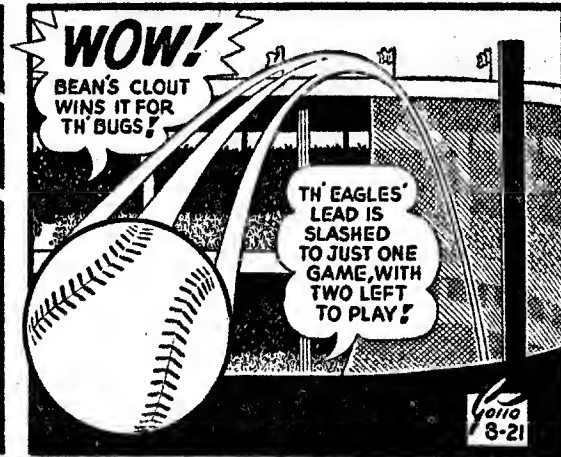
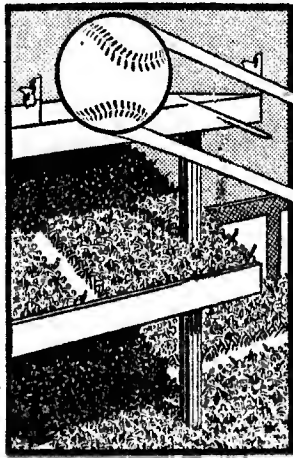
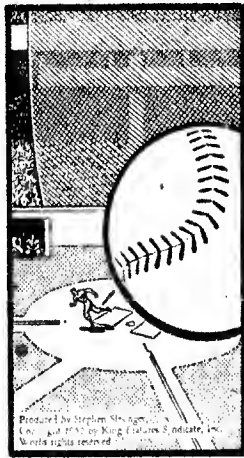
...US BUGS HAVE GOTTA
WIN OUR LAS' THREE
GAMES WITH THEM
EAGLES T' SNAG
TH' FLAG...

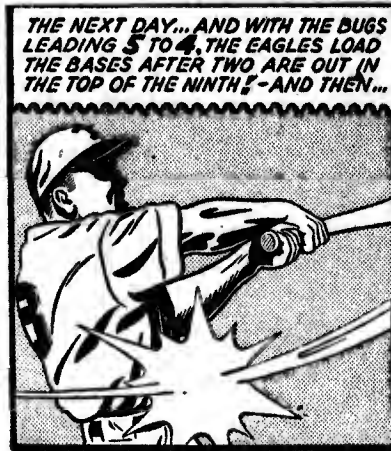
...SO YOU KIN BET
THAT TH' SKIPPUH'S
COUNTIN' ON YOU
T' HELP US LATCH
ONTO A STACK
UF THAT THAR
WORLD SERIES
CASH!

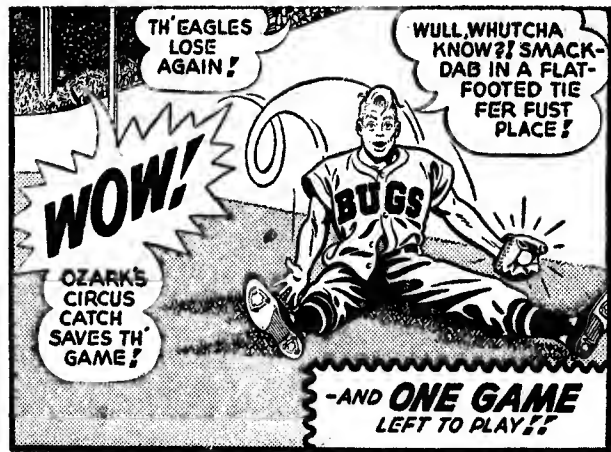
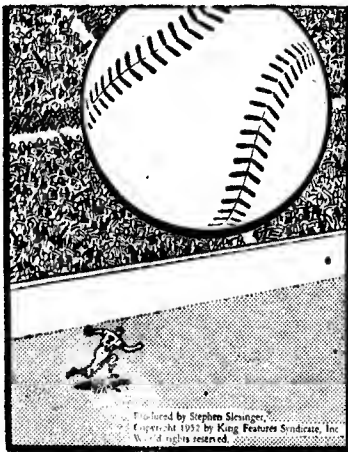
Gallo
8-19

UH--AN' FER YO'
HONEYMOON, ZIP,
**THAT AINT
HAY!**









HOW ABOUT
THOSE BUGS?! FIVE
WINS IN A ROW!

FROM
COAST
TO COAST,
FANS ARE
BUZZING
ABOUT THE
SCORCHING
PENNANT
RACE...

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TH' WHOLE BALL
CLUB CAUGHT
FIRE WHEN TH'
OZARK KID'S BAT
GOT HOT!

TH' BUGS CAME
FROM NOWHERE
TO CATCH TH'
EAGLES IN TH'
STRETCH!

THEY'RE NECK-
AN-NECK, WITH
ONLY ONE GAME
LEFT TO PLAY!

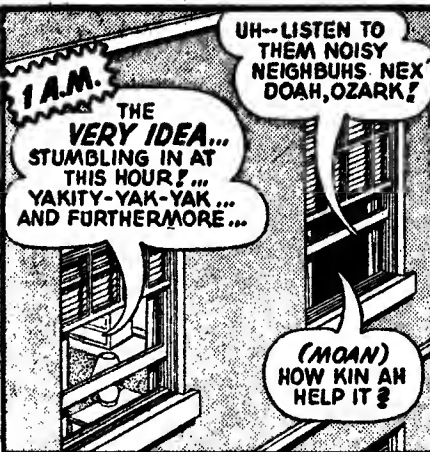
TH' BUGS HAVE TH'
POWER BUT TH' EAGLES
OUTCLASS 'EM ON
DEFENSE!...AND
THEIR HURLING ACE
IS RESTED AND
READY TO GO!

TH' PENNANT
WILL BE RIDING
ON EVERY PITCH
WHEN THEY
CLASH
TOMORROW!

Gallo
8-25





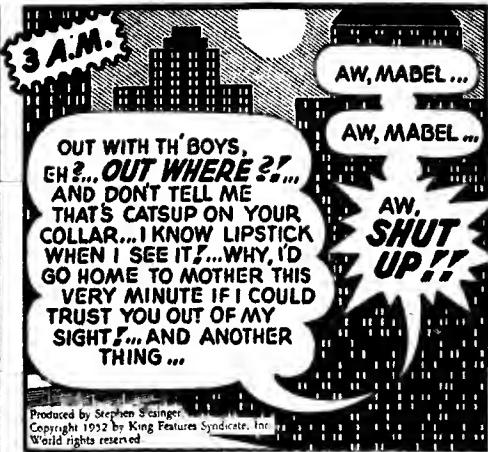


1 A.M.

THE
VERY IDEA...
STUMBLING IN AT
THIS HOUR?...
YAKITY-YAK-YAK...
AND FURTHERMORE...

UH--LISTEN TO
THEM NOISY
NEIGHBUHS NEX
DOAH, OZARK!

(MOAN)
HOW KIN AH
HELP IT?



3 A.M.

OUT WITH TH' BOYS,
EH?... **OUT WHERE?!**...
AND DON'T TELL ME
THAT'S CATSUP ON YOUR
COLLAR... I KNOW LIPSTICK
WHEN I SEE IT!... WHY, I'D
GO HOME TO MOTHER THIS
VERY MINUTE IF I COULD
TRUST YOU OUT OF MY
SIGHT!... AND ANOTHER
THING ...

AW, MABEL ...

AW, MABEL ...

AW,
**SHUT
UP!!**

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Y-YES,
WILBUR!

THANK GOODNESS!...
NOW MAYBE WE
KIN GIT SOME
SLEEP BEFO' TH'
BIG GAME T'DAY



**BANG!
BANG!**

Go to
8-28

UH--(GULP)
GUN SHOTS
OUTSIDE!

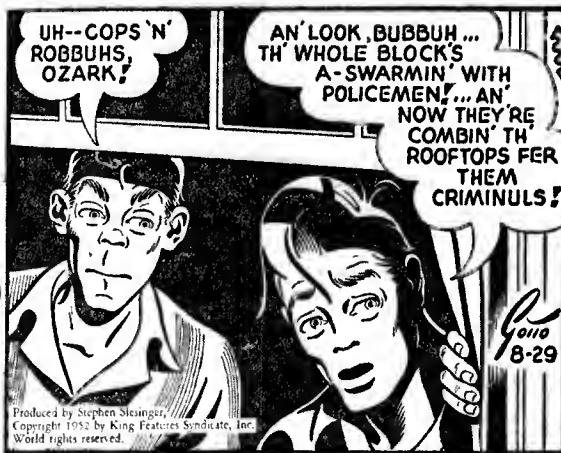


4 A.M.

BANG!
ZING!

THEY
WENT
THAT-A-
WAY!

AFTER
'EM,
MEN!



UH--COPS 'N'
ROBBUHS,
OZARK!

AN' LOOK, BUBBUH ...
TH' WHOLE BLOCK'S
A-SWARMIN' WITH
POLICEMEN! ... AN'
NOW THEY'RE
COMBIN' TH'
ROOFTOPS FER
THEM
CRIMINULS!

Go 110
8-29

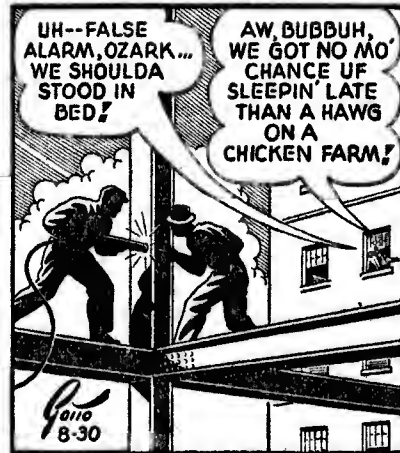
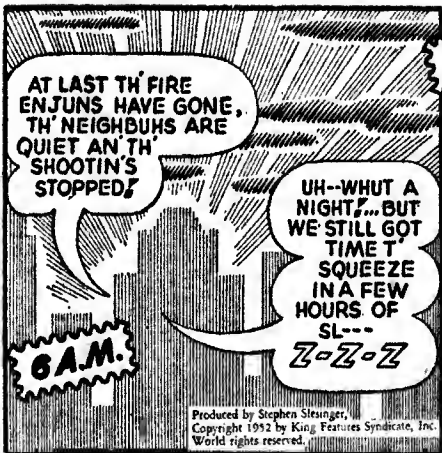
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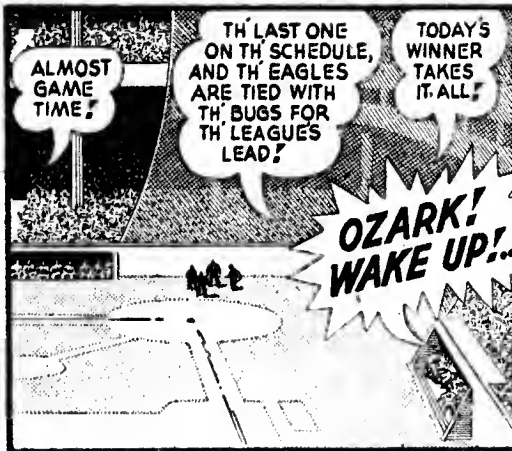


5 A.M.

UH--RECKON
THEM ARE
GEN-U-WINE
GUNS THEY'RE
A-SHOOTIN'?...
OR JUS'
ANOTHUH
GANGSTUH
PITCHUH?

ALL AH KNOW IS
THAT OUR NIGHT'S
SLEEP IS PLUM
SHOT! ... AN' WITH
TH' BIGGEST
GAME UP
TH' SEASON,
A-COMIN'
UP!





ALMOST
GAME
TIME!

TH' LAST ONE
ON TH' SCHEDULE,
AND TH' EAGLES
ARE TIED WITH
TH' BUGS FOR
TH' LEAGUE'S
LEAD!

TODAY'S
WINNER
TAKES
IT ALL!

**OZARK!
WAKE UP!...**

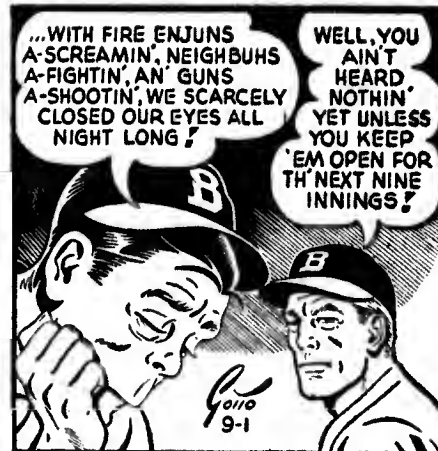


(HO-HUM)... INTO
BED AT NINE AN'
UP AT SEVEN,
MISTUH
SKELLEY!

DIDN'T
YOU AND
BEAN
GET ANY
REST
LAST
NIGHT?

Z-Z-Z- UH--
BUT THEM WUZ TH'
WILDES' TEN
HOURS WE NEVUH
SLEPT THRU...

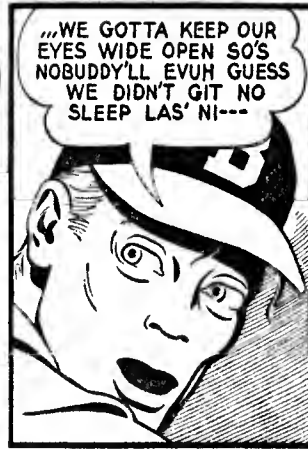
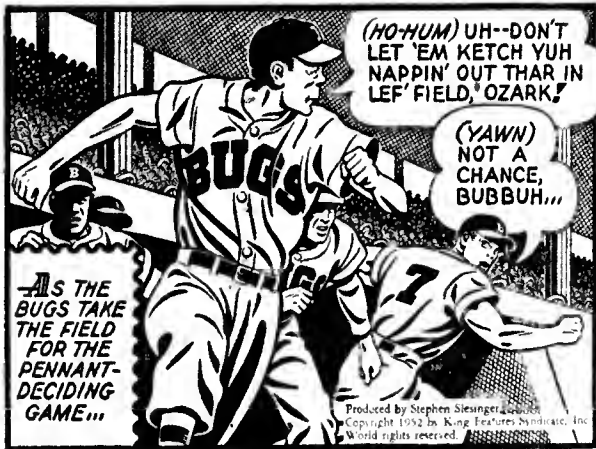
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...WITH FIRE ENJUNS
A-SCREAMIN', NEIGHBUHS
A-FIGHTIN', AN' GUNS
A-SHOOTIN', WE SCARCELY
CLOSED OUR EYES ALL
NIGHT LONG!

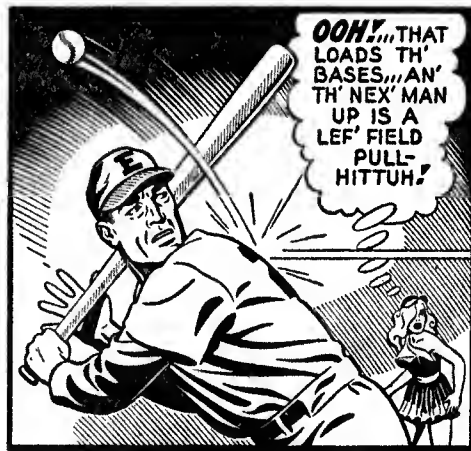
WELL, YOU
AIN'T
HEARD,
NOTHIN'
YET UNLESS
YOU KEEP
'EM OPEN FOR
TH' NEXT NINE
INNINGS!

Gallo
9-1





AFTER THE EAGLES'
LEAD-OFF MAN GOES
DOWN SWINGING IN
THE FIRST INNING...



ON YO' TOES,
OZARK!!

WITH ONE AWAY
AND THE BASES
LOADED IN THE
FIRST INNING...



AN EASY
FLY, SO AH'LL
JUS' CAMP
UNDUH IT
AN'---

YOW!

GOT
SUMPUM'
IN MY EYE!...



Go! 9-4

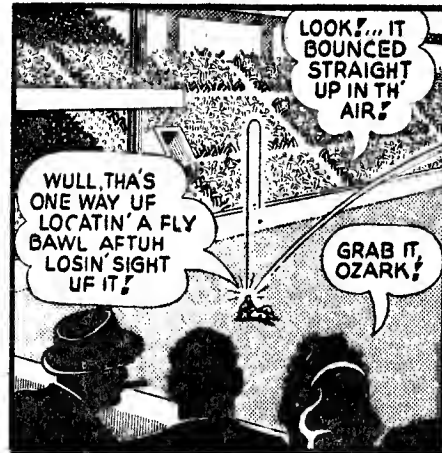
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...AN' NOW (GULP)
AH DONE PLUM
LOST TH' BAWL!...



...GOTTA
COVUH UP
UNTIL AH HEAR
IT LAND!





NEVUH
HEARD
SUCH AN
OVATION!...

...BUT ALL AH DONE
WUZ SNAG A FLY
BAWL A-SITTIN'
DOWN AFTUH IT
BOUNCED OFF'N
M' HAID!...



...WHUT'S ALL
TH' SHOUTIN'
ABOUT,
ELMUH?

THOSE **3**
RUNS TH'
EAGLES
JUST SCORED
AFTUH TH' CATCH,
BONEHEAD!



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HUNH?...
WUZ'N'T THAT
TH' THUD OU-

YOW!

AH DONE
MISCOUNTED!



(SOB*)
PO' OZARK'LL
NEVUH LIVE
THIS BON'UH
DOWN 'LESS'N
WE GIT THEM
RUNS BACK
AN' WIN TH'
PENNANT!



Go 110
9-6

(MOAN) TH'
SLEEP ME
AN' BUBBUH
LOST LAS'
NIGHT IS
AWREADY
A-SHOWIN'
ON TH'
SCO' BOARD,
DINAH ...

... 'CAUSE AH
DONE DONATED
THEM EAGLES
THREE BIG, FAT
RUNS IN THE
FUST INNIN'
BY MISPLAYIN'
AN' EASY FLY
BAWL!

AW, WE'LL
GET 'EM
BACK,
OZARK ...
(AH HOPE!)

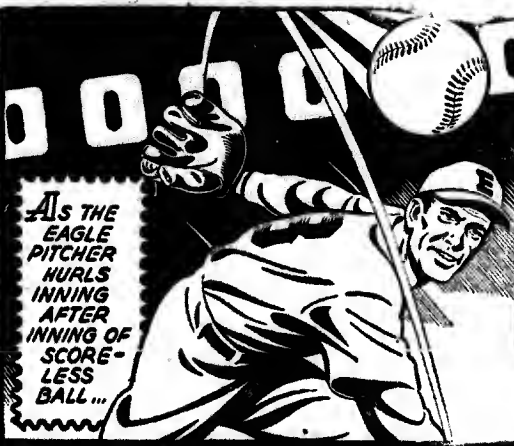
Yotto
9-8

-BUT THE FIRST
TWO BUG
BATTERS
GROUND OUT...

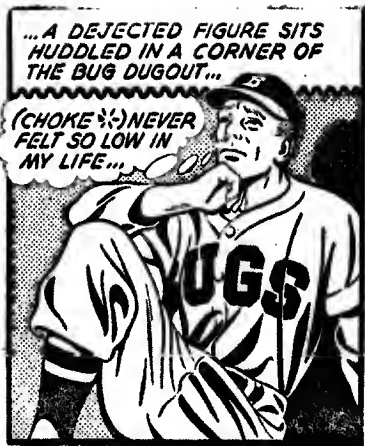
UH--THAR
GOES A
SURE
BASE HIT ...
AN' NOW IFF'N
OZARK
KIN MOVE
ME AROUN'
THEM SACKS...

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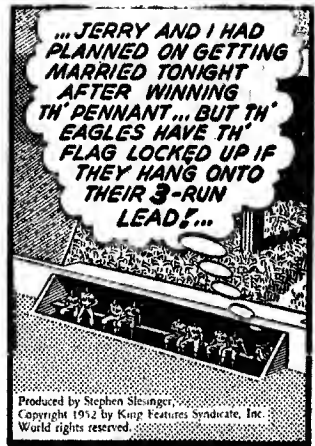


As the
EAGLE
PITCHER
HURLS
INNING
AFTER
INNING OF
SCORE-
LESS
BALL...



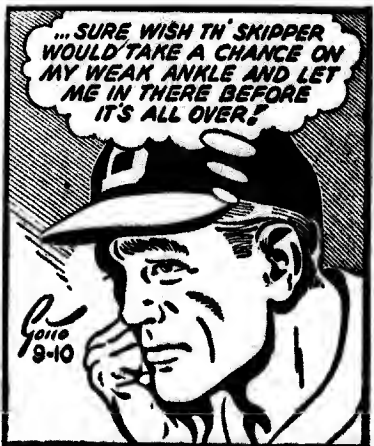
...A DEJECTED FIGURE SITS
HUDDLED IN A CORNER OF
THE BUG DUGOUT...

(CHOKE :-) NEVER
FELT SO LOW IN
MY LIFE...



...JERRY AND I HAD
PLANNED ON GETTING
MARRIED TONIGHT
AFTER WINNING
TH' PENNANT... BUT TH'
EAGLES HAVE TH'
FLAG LOCKED UP IF
THEY HANG ONTO
THEIR 3-RUN
LEAD!...

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...SURE WISH TH' SKIPPER
WOULD TAKE A CHANCE ON
MY WEAK ANKLE AND LET
ME IN THERE BEFORE
IT'S ALL OVER!

(SOB*) LAST UF TH'
NINTH A-COMIN' UP, AN' THEM
EAGLES ARE STILL OUT IN
FRONT, 3 TO 0... BUT WE
AIN'T BEAT UNTIL
TH' LAS' BLESSED
BUG IS OUT!



FIVE
MINUTES
LATER...

TH' BUGS
HAVE COME
TO LIFE
AT LAST!

TH' BASES
ARE LOADED,
WITH
NOBODY
OUT!

BUBBER
BEAN IS
DIGGIN'
IN AT TH'
PLATE!

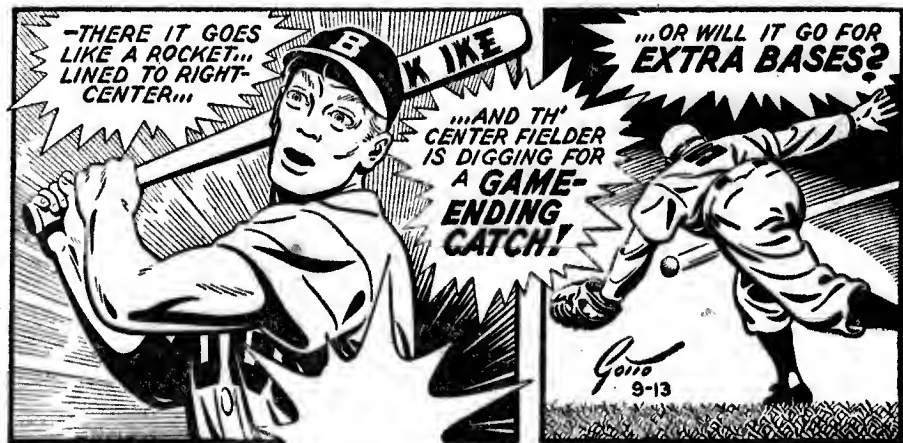
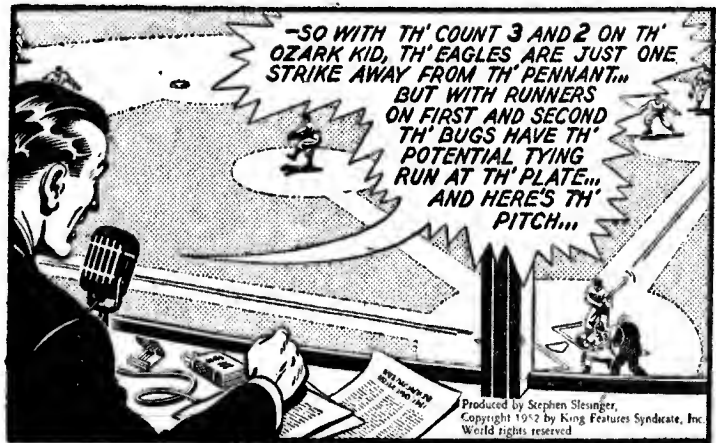
(HO-HUM) UH--
GOTTA KEEP
THIS RALLY
A-GOIN' OR
AH WON'T
HAVE
NOTHIN'
BUT BAD
DREAMS
ALL WINTUH
LONG!

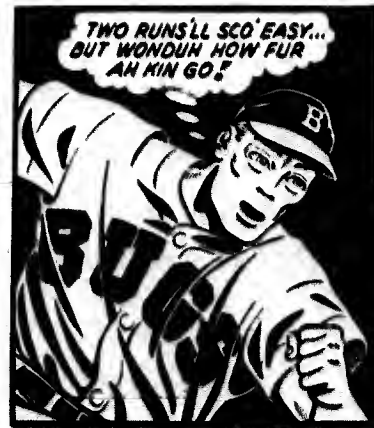
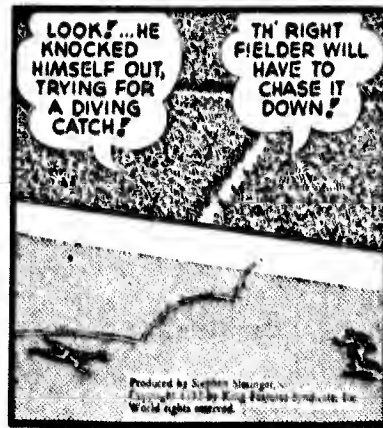
WOW!
THREE
HITS IN
A ROW!



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YOW!

TH' EAGLE CENTER
FIELDER IS DOWN
FOR TH' COUNT!

OZARK'S DRIVE
IS BOUNCING
OFF TH' WALL AND
AWAY FROM TH'
RIGHT
FIELDER!



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TH' KID'S
AROUND
SECOND
AND
STREAK-
ING FOR
THIRD!



TH' TYING
RUN IF HE
GOES ALL
TH' WAY!

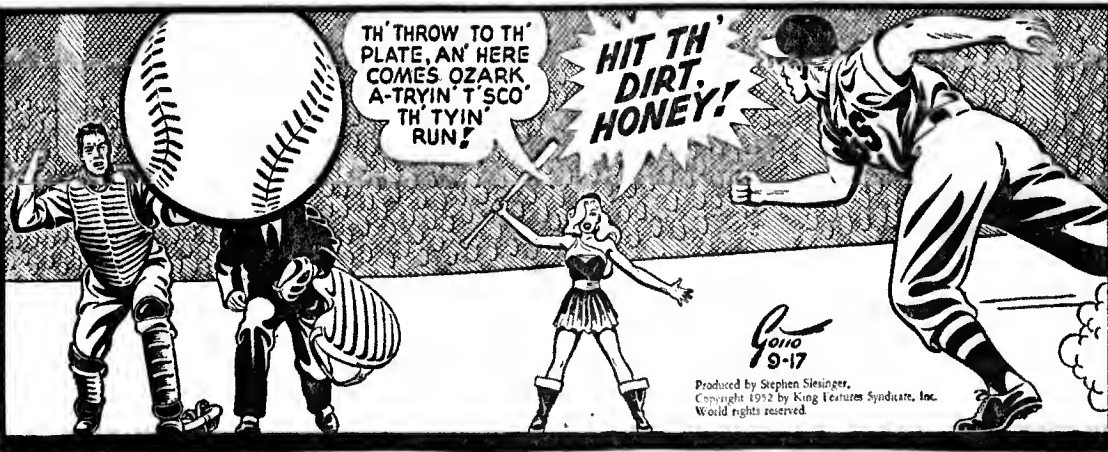
Gallo
9-16

HOT DAWG!...
AH GOT TH'
GREEN LIGHT
AT THUD
BASE...



...AN' **NO
TRAFFIC
AHEAD!**







-AND THE FANS
GO WILD!

**WHAT A
RALLY!**

3 RUNS TIE UP TH'
SCORE ON OZARK'S
INSIDE-TH-PARK
HOMER!

TH' BUGS ARE
BACK IN TH' BALL
GAME AFTER
BEING ON TH'
BRINK OF DEFEAT
IN TH' LAST OF
TH' NINTH!

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NOW IT'S
**ANYBODY'S
PENNANT!**

9-18



A POP-UP
TO END TH'
NINTH
FRAME!

IT'S ALL TIED
UP AS THEY
GO INTO
EXTRA
INNINGS!

JUST ONE
RUN CAN
WIN TH'
FLAG FOR
EITHER
CLUB!

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—AND THE FIRST EAGLE
BATTER IN THE TENTH PULLS
ONE HIGH AND DEEP TOWARD
THE LEFT FIELD CORNER...



(GULP) PLUM
INTO TH' SEATS—
'LESS'N AH KIN
FISH IT
OUT!



WOW!—OZARK
ROBBED HIM OF A
HOMER...BUT
IT'S FALLING FOR
**EXTRA
BASES!**





WITH ONE AWAY IN
THE TOP OF THE
TENTH AND
AN EAGLE
RUNNER
ON THIRD
BASE...

EEK!--A LONG
WALLOP TO
LEF' FIELD...
AN' (SOB!) IT
MUS' BE GOIN'
ALL TH' WAY,
'CAUSE OZARK'S
DONE FLUNG HIS
ARMS UP AN'
TURNED HIS BACK
IN DESPAIR!

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--AND AS THE
RUNNER TROTS
HOME...

...OZARK SUDDENLY WHEELS
AND MAKES THE CATCH--

NOW FER
A FAST
THROW!

Gotto
9-22

**DOUBLE
PLAY!**

TH' KID
TRICKED
HIM INTO
THINKING
IT WAS A
HOMER!

THREE
AWAY--AND
NOW IF TH'
BUGS CAN
SCORE...

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	

STILL TIED
UP IN TH'
THIRTEENTH!

AT THIS RATE TH' PENNANT-
WINNING TEAM WON'T HAVE
TIME TO SHOWER BEFORE
TH' WORLD SERIES!

TH' BUG
PITCHER
IS NEXT
AT BAT!

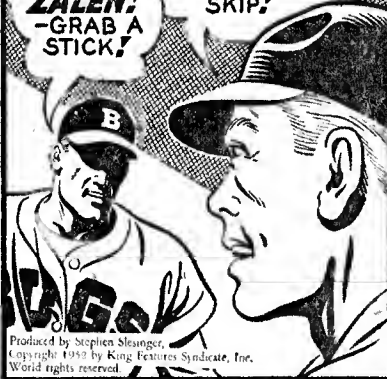
UNLESS
THEY
LIFT
HIM!

KLEATS IS TIRING...
GOTTA REPLACE HIM ON
TH' MOUND NEXT INNING...
BUT I'VE ALREADY
CLEANED TH' BENCH
OF PINCH HITTERS...
OR **HAVE I?**



ZALEN!
-GRAB A
STICK!

I'M ON MY WAY TO
TH' WOODPILE,
SKIP!



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TWO AWAY IN THE LAST
OF TH' THIRTEENTH, AND
LOOK WHO'S PINCH-
HITTING FOR TH' BUGS...
ZIP ZALEN!

TH' LITTLE SHORT-
STOP'S BEEN OUT
OF ACTION FOR
MONTHS!

HOW FAST CAN
HE RUN ON
THAT CRIPPLED
ANKLE?

UGH- SWUNG LATE
ON A FAST BALL!

A POP-UP
DOWN TH'
RIGHT
FIELD
FOUL
LINE!

TH' FIRST BASEMAN,
SECOND BASEMAN AND
RIGHT FIELDER ARE
ALL AFTER IT!

WILL IT
FALL
FOR A
HIT?

9-24

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THE **PENNANT-WINNING RUN!**

ZALEN CAME OFF TH' BENCH AND RAN TH' BUGS RIGHT INTO TH' WORLD SERIES!

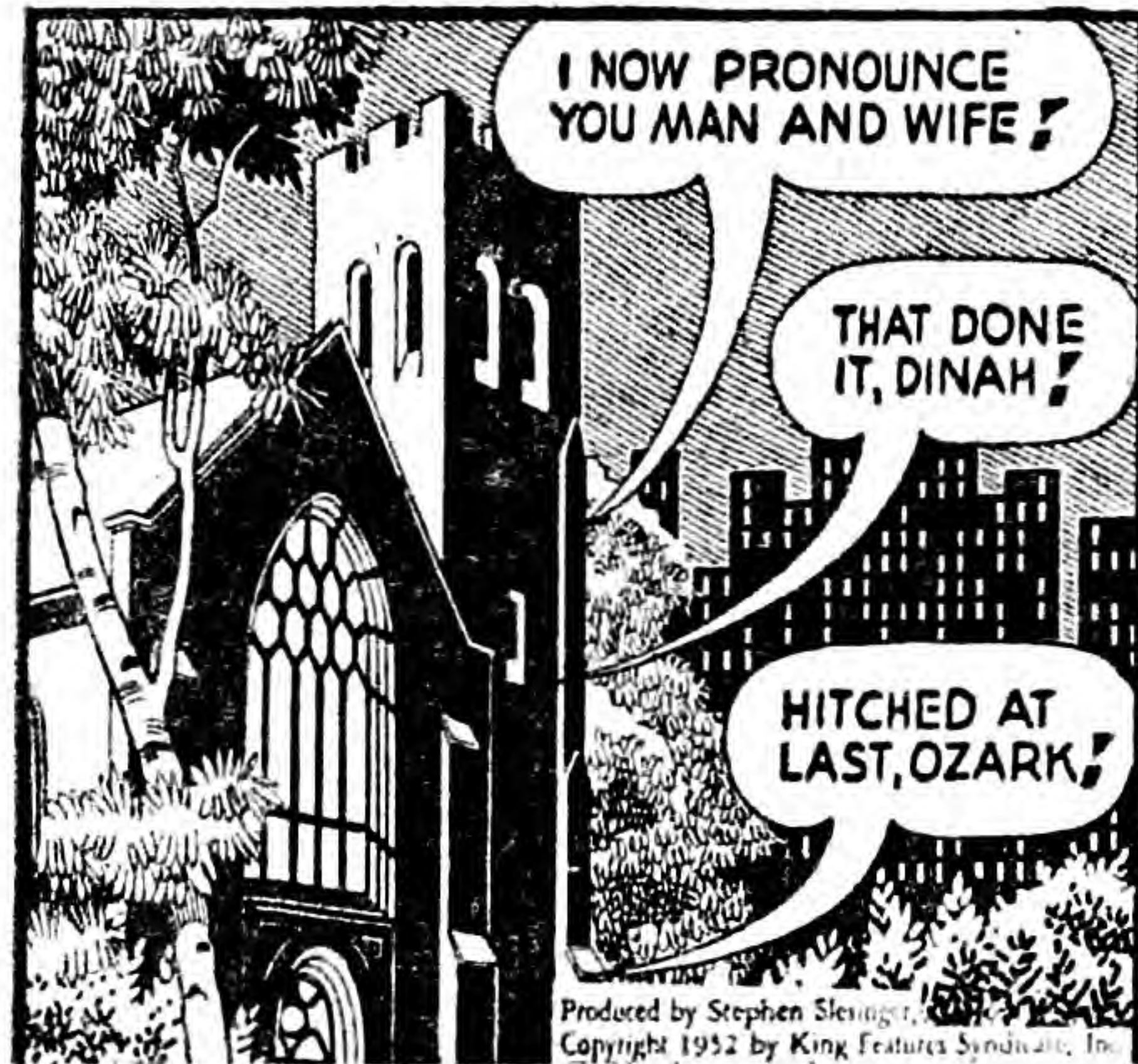
TH' KID'S BACK IN SHAPE- AND AS FAST AS EVER!



ATTA BOY, ZIP?...NOW ME AN' BUBBUH KIN COMMENCE KETCHIN' UP ON OUR LONG-LOST SLEEP!

NOT YET, PAL... YOU'RE BOOKED AS BEST MAN AT A WEDDING TONIGHT!

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BUGS-REBELS AT FULL STRENGTH FOR SERIES

HALE'S RETURN TO SHORT
GIVES BUGS SLIGHT EDGE



YUH DONE IT,
ZIP... GOT YO' SELF
MARRIED AS
SOON AS WE
WON TH'
PENNANT...

... BUT AH,
STILL AIN'T
HAD A CHANCE
T'BUY YUH
NO WEDDIN'
PRESENT!



TELL YA TH' GIFT WE'D
APPRECIATE MOST,
OZARK ... FOUR
STRAIGHT WORLD
SERIES VICTORIES,
SO JERRY AND I
CAN GET GOING ON
OUR HONEYMOON!

WULL START
PACKIN',
PAL ...



... 'CAUSE ALL US BUGS ARE
SHO' GONNA BE IN THAR
A-SWINGIN' FER A
FAST FINISH!



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GOING
9-29



AFTER EIGHT
INNINGS OF
THE FOURTH
GAME OF THE
WORLD
SERIES...

R H E
REBELS 031
BUGS 050

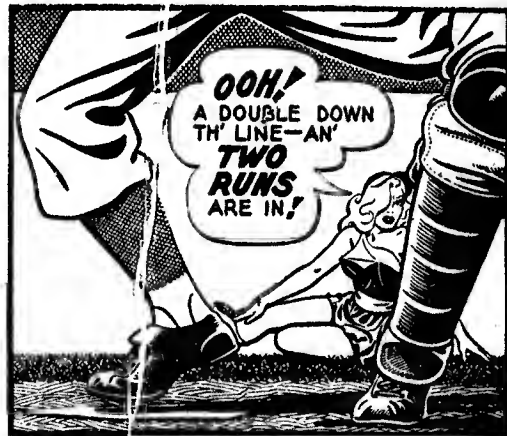
—AND WITH THE REBELS AT BAT IN THE
TOP OF THE NINTH...

YOW!
—TH' BUG
HURLER IS
BLOWIN' UP!

RUNNERS ON
FIRST AND
SECOND AFTER
TWO STRAIGHT
WALKS!



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AT LAST WE GOT
THEM 'REBELS' OUT IN
TH' TOP UF TH' NINTH...
BUT THEY DONE
WENT AN' TOOKEN A
2-0 LEAD!

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-AND AFTER THE FIRST
BUG BATTER POPS OUT...



ZIP, GIT YO'SELF A BASE
KNOCK AN' START A RALLY
SO'S WE KIN PULL THIS
HERE FO'TH WORLD
SERIES GAME
OUT UF
TH' FIRE...

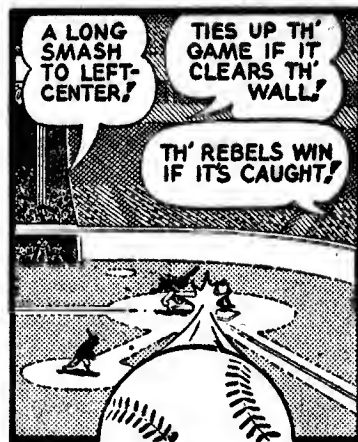
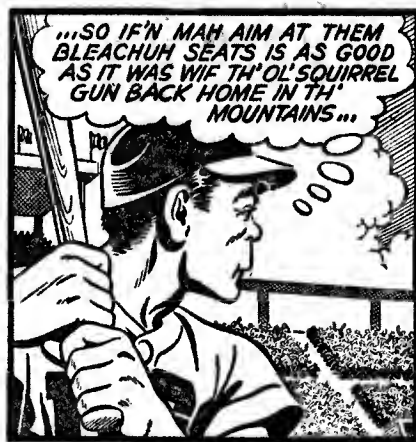


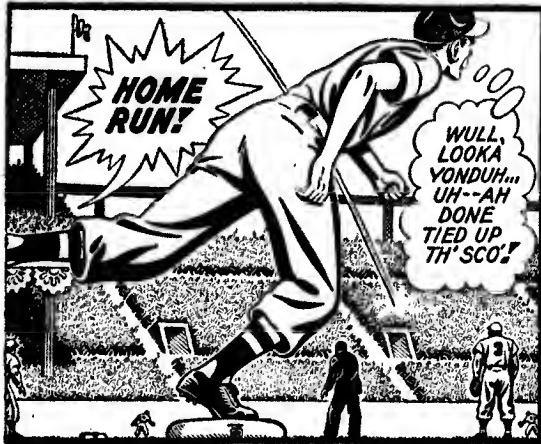
..LESS'N YUH WANTA
POSTPONE YO'
HONEYMOON
FER A WHOLE
DAY!



Go! 10-2







WOW!

A CLEAN SWEEP IN
TH' WORLD SERIES!...
AND NOW FOR A
HONEYMOON
THAT'S GONNA
LAST UNTIL
SPRING
TRAINING!

UH--GUESS AH'LL
HIKE BACK TO,
TH' FARM AN'
SEE HOW
THEM PIGS
AH BEEN
NEGLECTIN' ALL
SUMMUH ARE
MAKIN' OUT...
AN' MAYBE
AH KIN BUY
THAT SOUTH
FAWTY FER
TH' FOLKS,
WITH MAH
SERIES CUT!

(GULP) IT'S GONNA
TAKE ALL MAH SHARE
T'GIT ME OUTA
DEBT...

SO AH'M ITCHIN' T'GIT A-HOLT
UF A FOOTBAWL SO'S AH
KIN CASH IN A MESS UF
TOUCHDOWNS FER SOME
POCKET CHANGE!

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Color
10-7







AS COACH
SHAG
SCOWLER
DRILLS THE
WILDCATS...

WHAT A SORRY-
LOOKIN' BUNCH OF
MEATHEADS!...UNLESS
YOU OFFENSIVE LINEMEN
SHOW SOME LIFE, YOU'RE
GONNA BE TRAMPLED
WHEN OZARK IKE
CARRIES TH' MAIL...

...AND TH' KID IS
DUE HERE BEFORE
OUR NEXT GAME
WITH TH'
DEMONS!

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WHUTCHA WAITIN'
ON, HONEY?...
LE'S CLIMB
ABOARD!

CAN'T FIND THEM
TICKETS TH' WILD-
CATS SENT US,
DINAH!...

...(GULP) DIDN'T LEAVE 'EM
IN M' OTHUH COAT, 'CAUSE
AH AINT GOT ANOTHUH
COAT!...

GOING
10-11
...SO WHAR
KIN THEY
BE?

AS COACH
SHAG
SCOWLER
AND CLUB
OWNER
STORMY
KNIGHT
AWAIT THE
ARRIVAL OF
THEIR STAR
HALFBACK

ARE YOU SURE
OZARK IKE IS GONNA
SHOW UP, STORMY?

ACCORDING TO
TH' RESERVATIONS
I MADE FOR TH'
KID, HE SHOULD
BE BOARDING
A PLANE THIS
VERY MINUTE!

OOH, OZARK...
THERE WENT TH'
LAS' CALL FER
THIS HERE
FLIGHT!

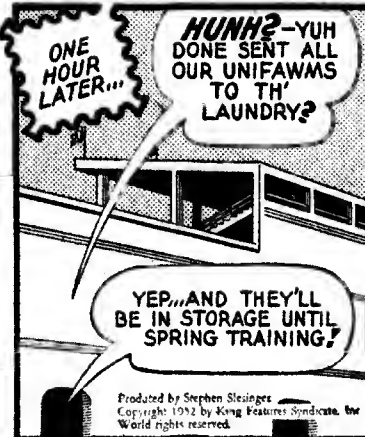
AN' (CHO-E*)
AH JUS' LOOKED
IN M' LAS' POLAR
FER OUR TICKETS,
DINAH... WITH
NO LUCK!

WULL, WE AINT GOT
NO MONEY, HONEY... SO
WHUT KIN WE DO?

(MOAN)
COMMENCE
WALKIN'!

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Gotto
10-13



WHERE, OH WHERE
IS OZARK IKE ? ...

WITH TH' PLANE RESERVATIONS
I ARRANGED, HE AND DINAH
SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE
DAYS AGO!

AND
TOMORROW
WE PLAY
TH' DEMONS!

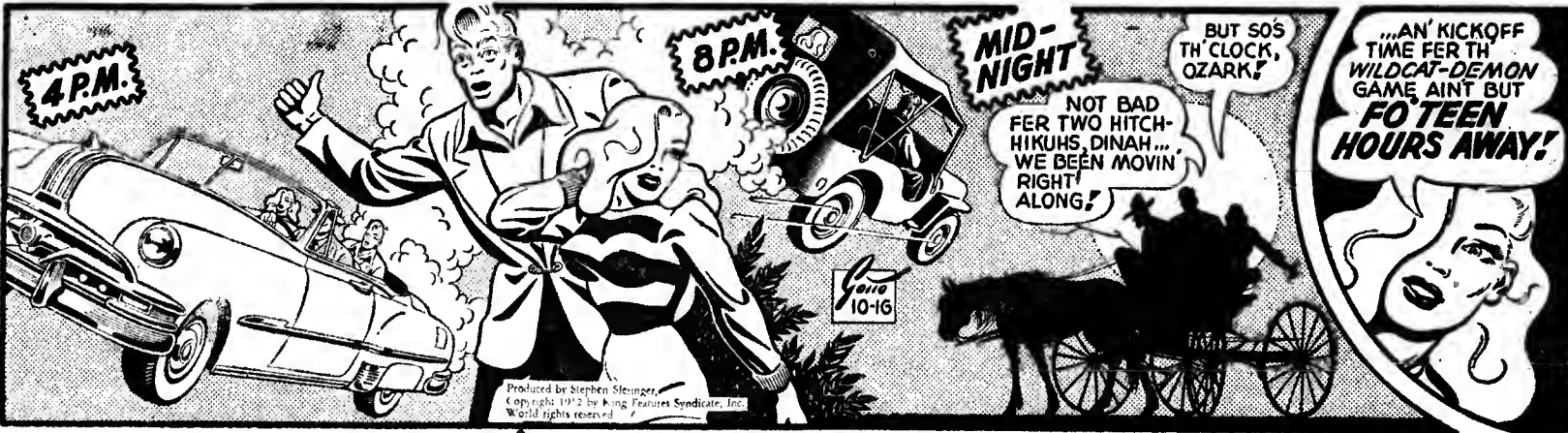
MY LAST GAME AS
TH' WILDCAT COACH...
SO IT LOOKS LIKE
I'LL BE GONE
BEFORE TH'
OZARK KID
EVEN SHOWS
UP!

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IF'N OUR HITCH-HIKIN'
LUCK HOL'S OUT, DINAH, WE
OUGHTA GIT THAR ANY
DAY NOW!

BUT
T'MORRUH'S
TH' DAY WHUT
COUNTS,
OZARK!

10-15



4 P.M.

8 P.M.

MID-NIGHT

BUT SO'S
TH' CLOCK,
OZARK!

NOT BAD
FER TWO HITCH-
HIKUHS, DINAH...
WE BEEN MOVIN'
RIGHT
ALONG!

...AN' KICKOFF
TIME FER TH'
WILDCAT-DEMON
GAME, AINT BUT
**FO' TEEN
HOURS AWAY!**

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WE MADE

IT!... BUT
IT SHO' TOOK
A HEAP UF
HITCH-HIKIN'
T'GIT HERE
BEFO' GAME
TIME!...

Go 10
10-20

AN 'JUS' LOOKIT
THEM 'WILDCATS'
A-GREETIN'
OZARK IN
THERE!

TH' TOUCHDOWN
KID!

NOW WE'VE
GOT A CHANCE
TO UPSET
THOSE
DEMONS!



YOU'RE NOT FAMILIAR
WITH OUR SIGNALS, KID,
BUT WE SURE CAN
USE YA TO HAUL BACK
THOSE KICKS IF YOUR
LEGS ARE IN SHAPE!

THEY OUGHTA BE,
COACH... WITH SOME
HELP FRUM M' THUMB,
THEY JUS' BRUNG ME
HALFWAY ACROSS
TH' COUNTRY!

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HERE COME
TH' WILDCATS!

**HEY-LOOK
WHO'S LEADIN'
TH' PACK!**

**NUMBER 7-
THE OZARK
KID!**

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HM-M... SUMPUM'S
WRONG!... OZARK
AINT A-RUNNIN'
LIKE HIS
NATCHUL SELF
A-TALL!

(GULP) AH
GOT ENUFF
EXTRUH ROOM
IN THESE
HERE SHOES
T'TAKE IN
BOARDUHS...

Gallo
10-21



...BUT IT'S ALMOS' KICK-
OFF TIME, SO AH'LL HAVE
T'MAKE OUT
TH' BEST AH
CAN WITH
THEM!

TH' DEMONS ARE
FAVORED T' WIN
BY THREE
TOUCHDOWNS!

DON'T BET ON
IT... NOT WITH TH'
OZARK KID IN
THERE FOR TH'
WILDCATS!

HERE GOES
TH' KICKOFF!

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AIN'T HAD A CHANCE
T' LEARN NONE UF OUR
PLAYS, SO AH'LL HAVE T' DO
ALL MAH RUNNIN' ON
KICKOFF AND PUNT
RETURNS...

IF'N THESE
OVUHSIZED
SHOES WILL
LET ME!

Gallo
10-22



**TIME
OUT!**



4 QUARTER DOWN 4
31 YARD LINE YDS. TO GO 9
DEMONS 16
WILDCATS 10

WHAT A BUST!...
OZARK IKE'S BEEN
STOPPED COLD
ALL DAY LONG!

IF TH' KID HAD
BEEN RIGHT, TH'
WILDCATS COULD
HAVE WON IN
AN UPSET!

LESS THAN
A MINUTE
TO PLAY,
BUT DON'T
COUNT
'EM OUT
UNTIL
TH' FINAL
GUN!

HUNH, COACH?...
YUH SAY THIS IS
YO' FAREWELL
GAME?

BY REQUEST OF
TH' CLUB OWNER,
KID...AND I
SURE HATE
TO BOW OUT
AS A
LOSER...



...BUT THAT'S MY
FATE UNLESS YOU
CAN CARRY TH'
BALL ALL TH'
WAY ON THIS
LAST PUNT
RETURN!

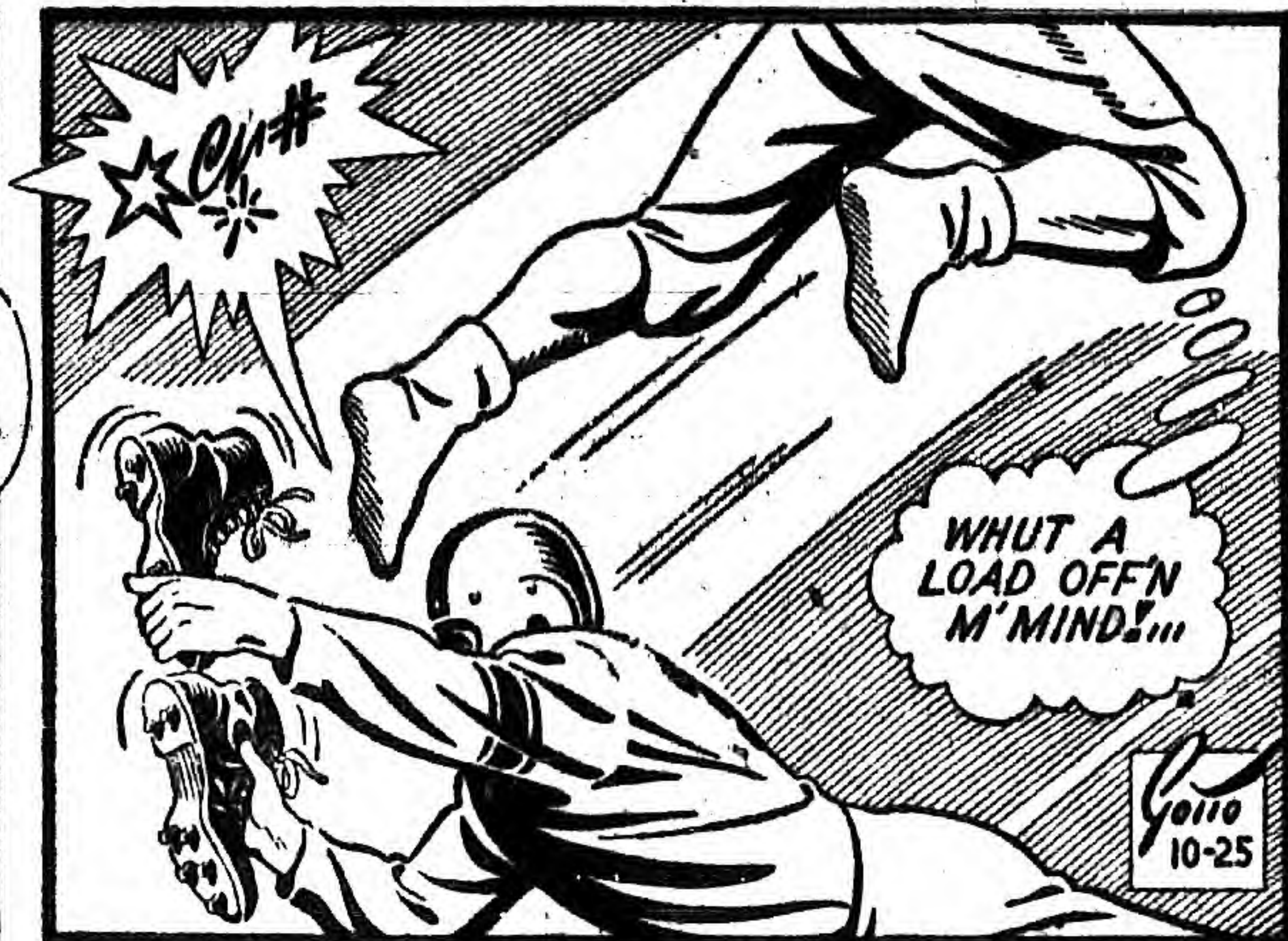
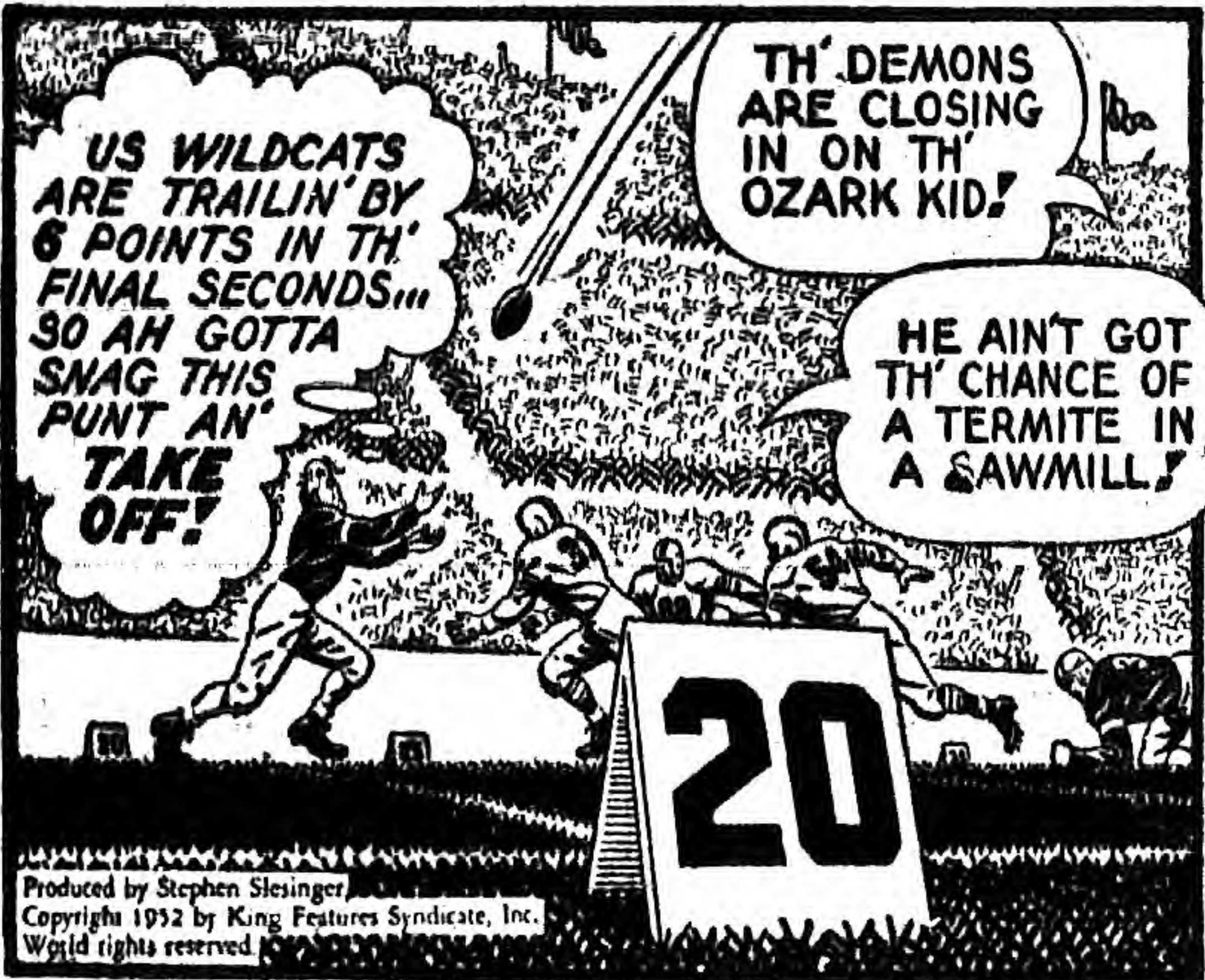
AW, TOTIN' TH'
BAWL AIN'T NO
TROUBLE,
COACH...

-BUT
PICKIN'
THESE BIG,
FAT SHOES UP
AN' LAYIN' 'EM
DOWN IS
SUMPUM
ELSE
AGIN!



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45 40 10-24



**DEMONS-16
WILDCATS-10**

- AND AS OZARK
RETURNS-A PUNT IN
THE FINAL SECONDS...

50

THEY DONE TACKLED
OZARK'S SHOES, CLEAN
OFF'N HIM... AN' NOW
FER TH' FUST TIME
T'DAY HE'S RUNNIN'
LIKE HIS NATCHUL
SELF!



AFTUH SHEDDIN'
THEM OVUHSIZED
SHOES AH FEEL
LIKE A PLOW-
HOSS JUS' LET
OUT T' PASTURE...



...AN' THAT
THAR GRASS
IN TH' END
ZONE LOOKS
GREENEST
T'ME!...

...BUT IT'S 40
YARDS AWAY AN
AH'M **PLUM
FENCED
IN!**



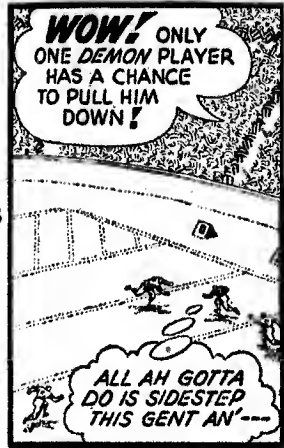
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OUR LAS' CHANCE T'WIN THIS'N FER TH' COACH...

...AN' US WILDCATS NEED 7 POINTS T'DO TH' TRICK!

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WOW! ONLY ONE DEMON PLAYER HAS A CHANCE TO PULL HIM DOWN!

ALL AH GOTTA DO IS SIDESTEP THIS GENT AN'---



OOPS-
SLIPPED ON TH' GRASS!... PLUM F'GOT AH DIDN'T HAVE NO CLEATS UNDUH ME!

Gallo
10-28



DOWNED ON TH' ONE-YARD LINE!

JUST TIME ENOUGH FOR ONE MORE PLAY!



BANG!

**OZARK'S
OVER!**

TH' WILDCATS SCORE
TH' TYING TOUCHDOWN
AS TIME RUNS OUT!

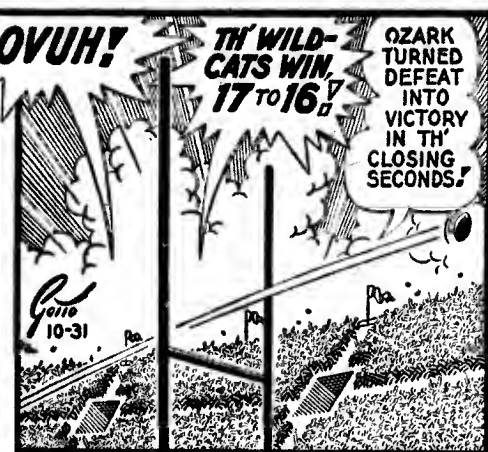
-AND THE
OVATION IS
DEAFENING
AS OZARK
TLOTS OFF
THE FIELD

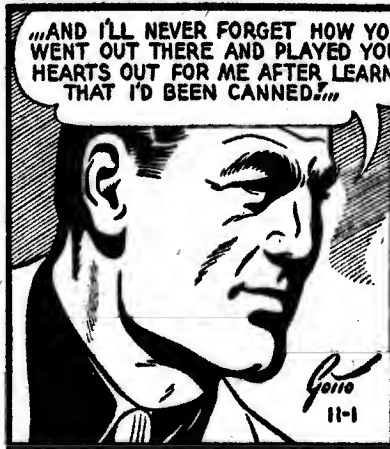
THEM FANS BETTUH
SAVE THEIR BREATH,
'CAUSE TH' BIGGEST
PLAY UP TH' GAME
IS YET T' COME!



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-AN' NEX' WEEK, DINAH,
WE PLAY TH'
RUSTLUHS
FRUM OUT
WEST!

OOH... TH' PASSIN'EST
TEAM IN PRO FOOT-
BAWL, OZARK!

YUP, THEY BEEN
A-BEATIN' EVUHBUDDY
WITH LONG TOUCH-
DOWN TOSSES-AN'
NO WONDUH...

... THEY GOT A PASSUH
NAMED RAZ DAZZUL
WHO KIN HIT A BULL'S-
EYE FRUM 50 YARDS
AWAY, A-STANDIN' ON
HIS HAID!

THEN YUH
GOTTA BE
KEERFUL,
HONEY...

...AN' DON'T KNOCK
RAZ DAZZUL
OFF'N HIS
FEET!

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Go 11-5

AW, OZARK, STOP
A-FRETTIN'
'BOUT OUR NEX'
GAME WITH TH'
RUSTLUHS...

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...THEIR PASSIN' ATTACK
AIN'T NO PROBLEM IF
YOURN, 'CAUSE YOU'LL
ONLY BE IN TH' GAME
ON OFFENSE!

BUT AH SHO' FEEL
SORRY FER OUR PO'
DEFENSIVE PLATOON
WHEN RAZ
DAZZUL
COMMENCES
SLINGIN'
THEM
BULLETS!

M
E
A
N
W
H
I
L
E

STORMY, OUR BEST BET
IS TO PLAY TH' OZARK
KID FOR **60**
MINUTES IN
EVERY GAME!

FINE, COACH... AS
SAFETY MAN, PERHAPS
HE CAN CONVERT
SOME OF TH' *RUSTLERS'*
LONG PASSES INTO
TOUCHDOWNS-
FOR **US!**

Gott
11-6





UNBEATEN RUSTLERS FAVORED OVER WILDCATS BY 7 POINTS

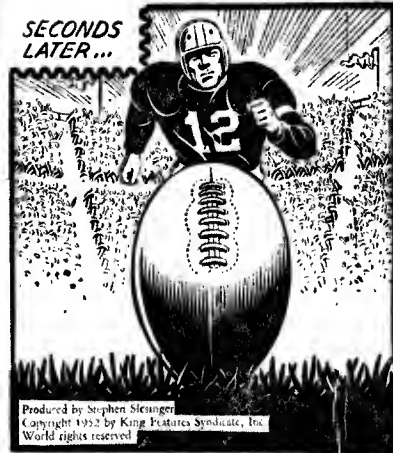
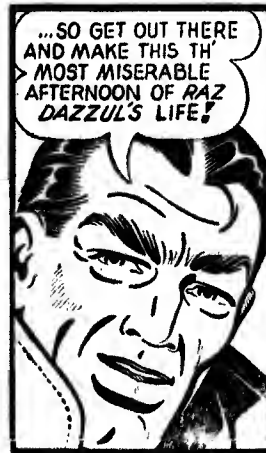
RIFLE ARM OF RAZ DAZZUL
LOADED FOR DUEL AGAINST
RUNNING MIGHT OF OZARKIKE

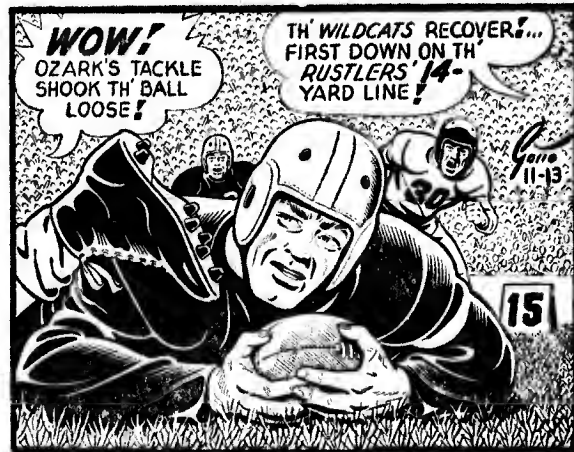
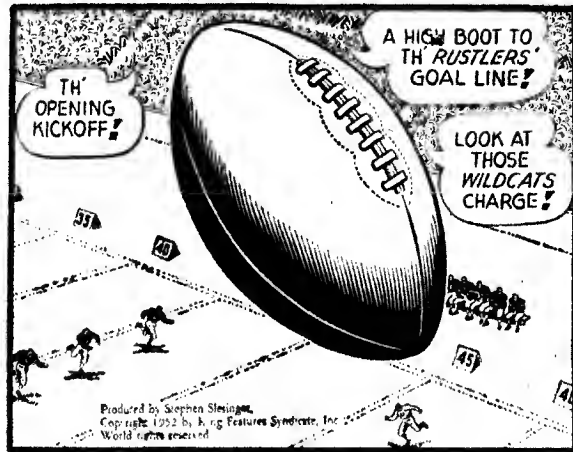
LYON NDRN TOM NDRN
ERIC WIKOAN OR TINKLE IN
DAILY NDRN

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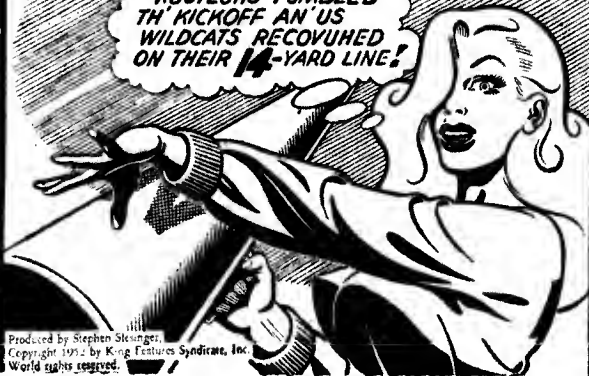








TH' FUST BREAK UP
TH' GAME...TH'
RUSTLUHS FUMBLER
TH' KICKOFF AN' US
WILDCATS RECOVUHER
ON THEIR **14-YARD LINE!**



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THERE GOES TH'
OZARK KID... SLASHING
OFF TACKLE!

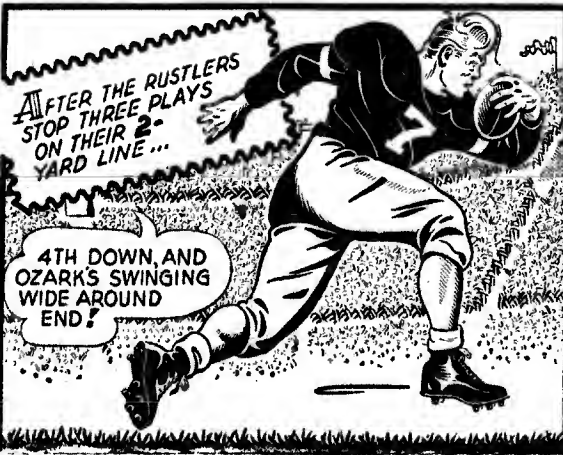
A HOLE BIG
ENUFF T'DRIVE A
HERD UF HEFFUHS
THRU!



STOPPED ON
TH' **2-YARD
LINE!**

FIRST DOWN
AN' **GOAL
TO GO!**





YOW! - A RUSTLER
INTERCEPTED
OZARK'S LATERAL
ON TH' 5-YARD
LINE!

HE'S GOT A
CLEAR FIELD
ALL TH' WAY!

EARLY
IN THE
FIRST
PERIOD...

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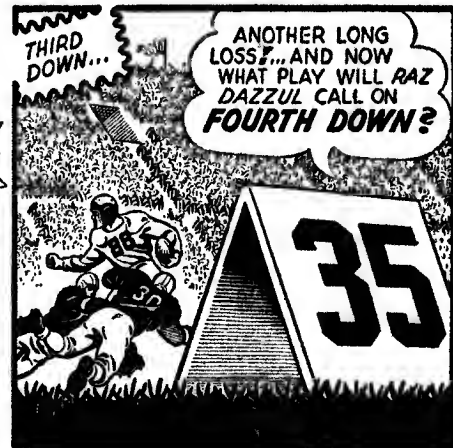
A SLOW LINEMAN,
THANK GOODNESS...
SO MAYBE AH
KIN SNEAK UP
ON HIS BLIND
SIDE!

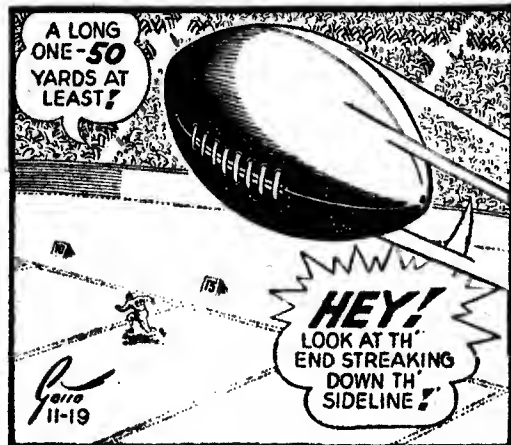
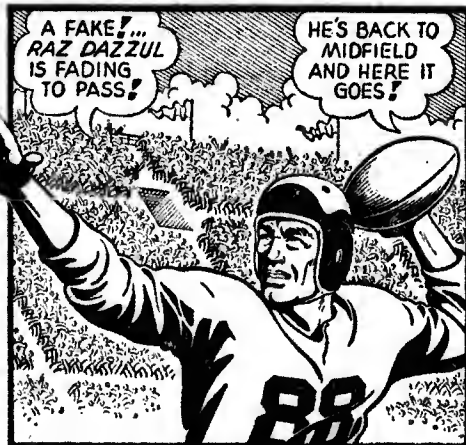


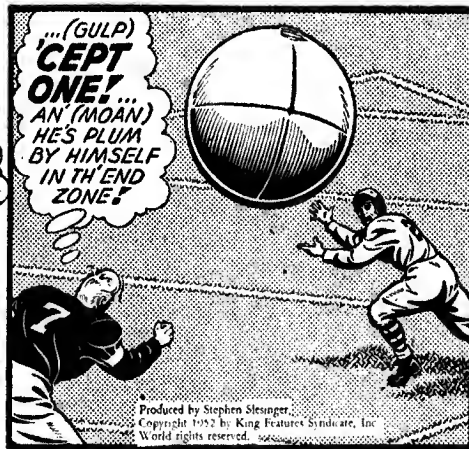
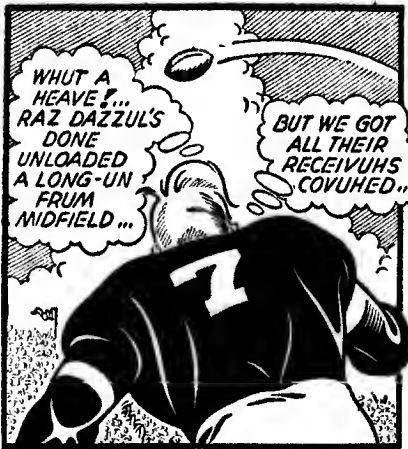
Gallo
11-17

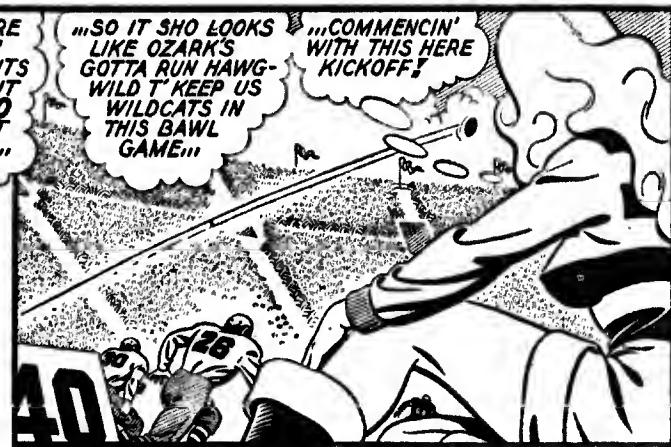
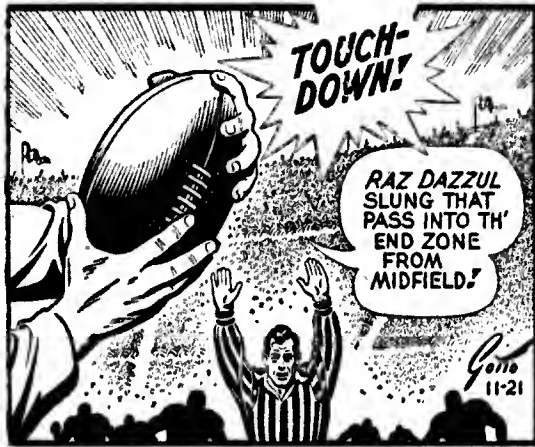
OZARK
SPILLED
HIM ON
TH' 9!

HERE COMES
RAZ DAZZUL
INTO TH' GAME
FOR TH'
RUSTLERS!









TH' WILDCATS
RETURN TH'
KICKOFF TO
THEIR
30-YARD
LINE!

AFTER THE
RUSTLERS
TAKE A
7-0 LEAD
IN THE FIRST
QUARTER...

-AND AFTER TWO PLAYS
FAIL TO GAIN...

HEY!-WHY AIN'T
THEY FEEDIN' TH' BALL
TO TH' OZARK KID?

THIRD AND
TEN...AND
THERE
GOES
JONES
AROUND
RIGHT
END...

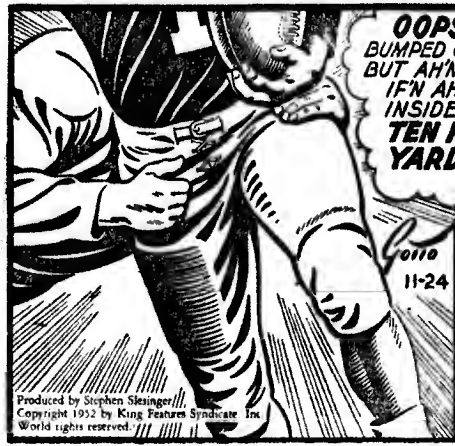
NO!-IT'S A
REVERSE!

OZARK'S GOT
TH' BALL-AND
LOOK AT HIM
CUT DOWN
THAT SIDE-
LINE!

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11-22
25

TOUCHDOWN BOUND?



**AFTER
AVOIDING
A VICIOUS
TACKLE
AT THE
TEN-YARD
LINE!!!**

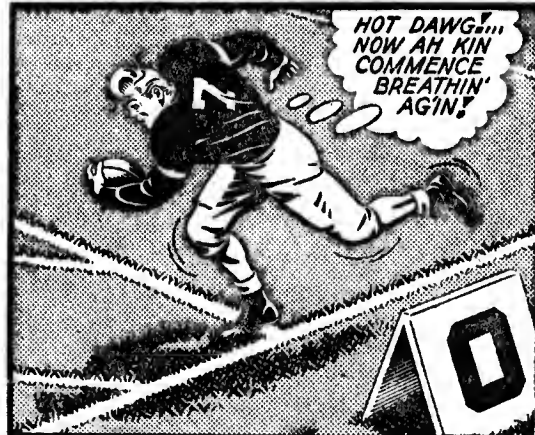


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**...SO IF'N
AH KIN
KEEP
A-ZIGGIN'
WITHOUT
ZAGGIN'!!!**

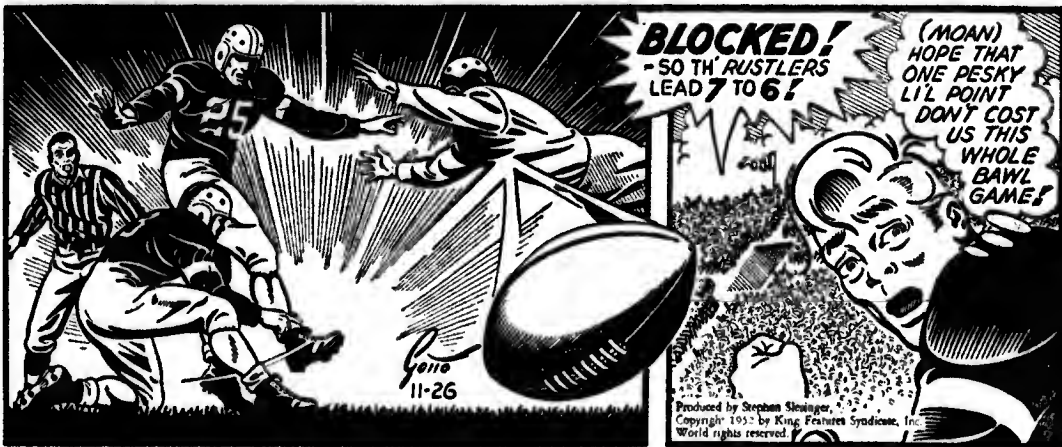


**HOT DAWG!!!
NOW AH KIN
COMMENCE
BREATHIN'
AG'IN!**



WHEE!

OZARK GALLOPED
65 YARDS FOR A TOUCH-
DOWN... SO TH'
SCO' WILL BE ALL
TIED UP IN TH' FUST
QUAWTUH, SOON AS
US WILDCATS BOOT
TH' EXTRA POINT!





WITH RAZ DAZZUL
MOVING THE RUSTLERS
THROUGH THE AIR
AND OZARK IKE
PACING THE WILDCATS
ON THE GROUND, THE
FIRST HALF ENDS
WITH THE RUSTLERS
LEADING 21 TO 20...

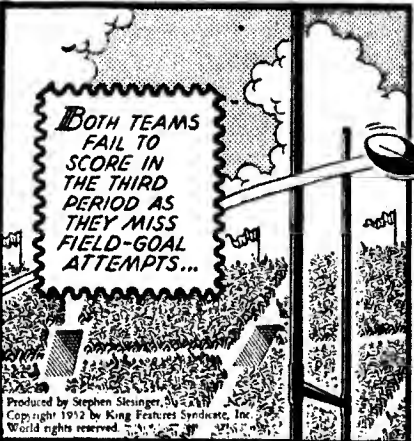
GO 110
11-27



NOW LET'S SEE YOU
BIRDS INTERCEPT SOME
OF THOSE
PASSES!

SHO, COACH... IF N
RAZ DAZZUL WILL JUS
QUIT A-THROWIN' 'EM
WHAR WE AINT!

-AND AS THE
WILDCATS CHARGE
ONTO THE FIELD
FOR THE SECOND
HALF...



**BOTH TEAMS
FAIL TO
SCORE IN
THE THIRD
PERIOD AS
THEY MISS
FIELD-GOAL
ATTEMPTS...**

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**-AND WITH 2 MINUTES REMAINING
IN THE FOURTH QUARTER...**

**EVUHTHING ABOUT
THIS GAME HAS
CHANGED 'CEPT
TH' 21-20 LEAD
THEM RUSTLUHS
GRABBED IN
TH' FUST
HALF!...**

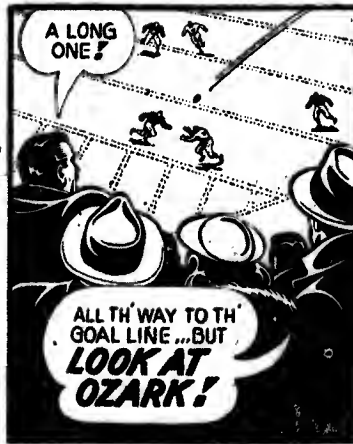
Gallo
11-28

**... AN (SOB-*) OUR
CHANCES ARE FADIN'
FAST 'CAUSE THEY GOT
TH' BAWL ON OUR 37-
YARD LINE!**

35

**HERE'S WHERE WE PUT IT ON
ICE WITH TH' SAME PASS
PLAY THAT SCORED
FOR US IN TH' FIRST
QUARTER!**

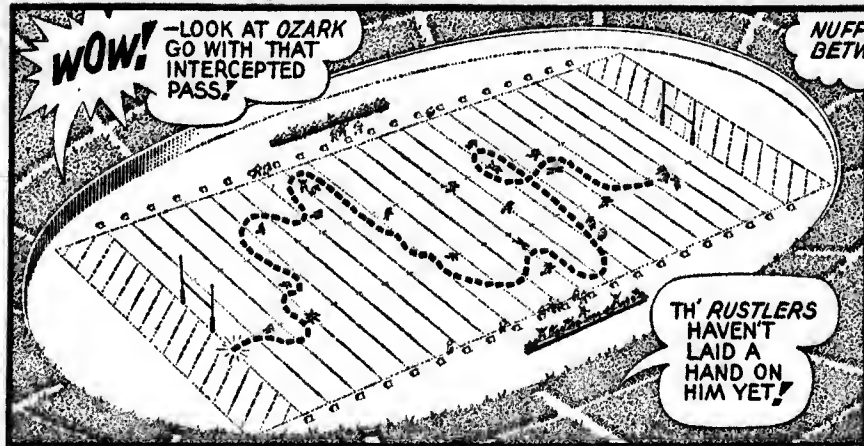
38



LATE IN
THE LAST
QUARTER...



WITH THE
RUSTLERS
LEADING
21 TO 20...



WOW!

—LOOK AT OZARK
GO WITH THAT
INTERCEPTED
PASS!

TH' RUSTLERS
HAVEN'T
LAID A
HAND ON
HIM YET!

NUFFIN' BUT DAYLIGHT
BETWIXT ME AN' TH'
GOAL
LINE...

...IF'N AH KIN SHAKE
LOOSE FRUM THESE
TWO
GENTS!



Go to
12-1

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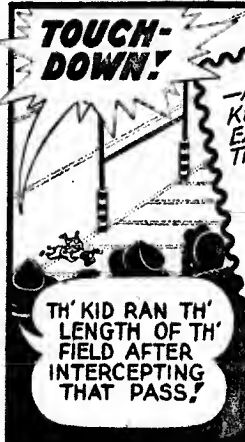
OZARK'S HIT AT
TH' 5-YARD
LINE!

HE'S STILL
DIGGING!




TOUGH LUCK, FELLUHS...
YOU DONE
SNAGGED ME
95 YARDS
TOO LATE!

**TOUCH-
DOWN!**



—AND AFTER
KICKING THE
EXTRA POINT
THE WILDCATS
LEAD
27 TO 21
WITH JUST
70 SECONDS
LEFT TO
PLAY!!

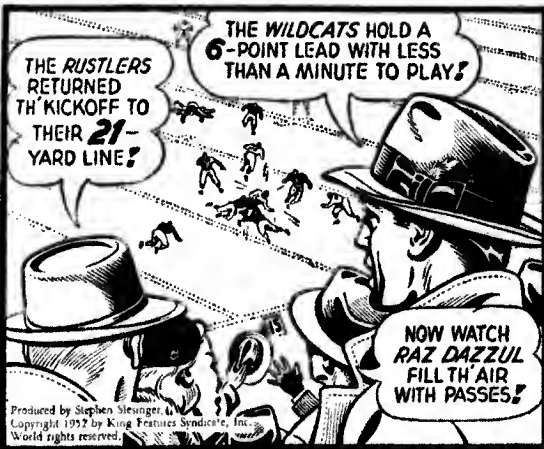
TH' KID RAN TH'
LENGTH OF TH'
FIELD AFTER
INTERCEPTING
THAT PASS!



FRUM HERE ON IN
RAZ DAZZUL AN'
HIS PASSES ARE
GONNA BE MO'
DANGUHROUS THAN
A HIGH DIVE INTO
A BUCKET OF
WATER!

Gotto
12-2

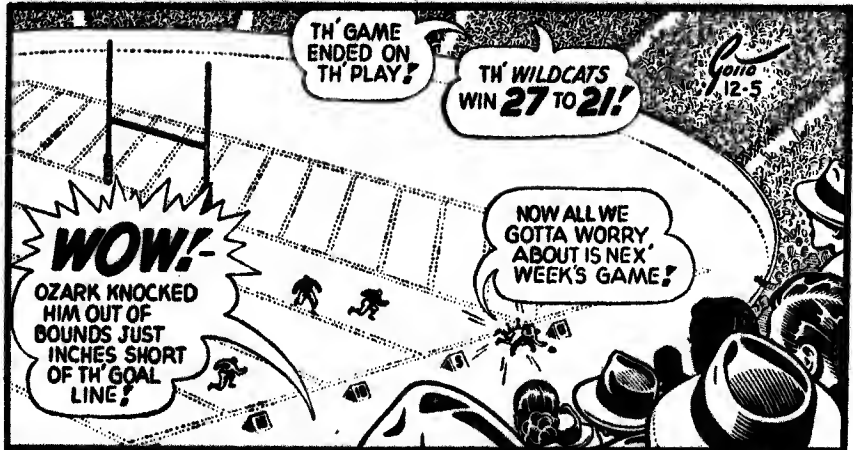
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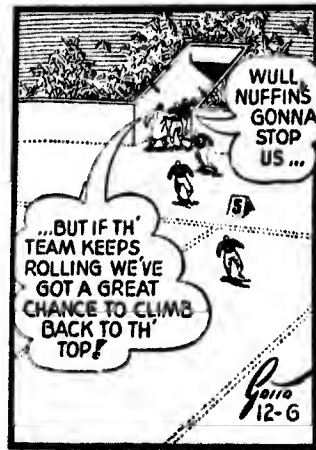
WOW!
OZARK KNOCKED
HIM OUT OF
BOUNDS JUST
INCHES SHORT
OF TH' GOAL
LINE!

TH' GAME
ENDED ON
TH' PLAY!

TH' WILDCATS
WIN **27 TO 21!**

NOW ALL WE
GOTTA WORRY
ABOUT IS NEX'
WEEK'S GAME!

Gott
12-5



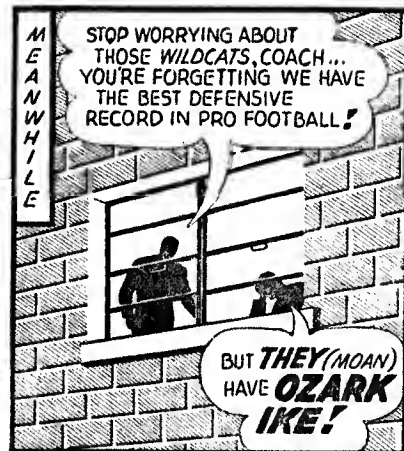


OZARK, WHUTTA FLOCK
UF TOUCHDOWNS YUH
SCORED IN THIS
WINNIN' STREAK!

JUS' WARM-UP GAMES,
DINAH... WAIT'LL
YUH HEAR,
'BOUT TH'
TEAM WE
GOTTA BEAT
T'WIN TH'
PRO TITLE!



12-8



IN THE
OFFICE
OF THE
SHARKS...

SURE, OUR STALWART
DEFENSIVE UNIT HAS
WRECKED THE RUNNING
GAME OF EVERY
TEAM WE'VE FACED
ALL SEASON...

...BUT WE HAVEN'T
HAD TO CONTENT
WITH A BACK
WHO CAN SMASH
THROUGH A
LINE LIKE A
BULLDOZER...

...SLASH OFF TACKLE
LIKE A RUNAWAY
LOCOMOTIVE...
AND SWEEP TH'
ENDS LIKE A
FLYING
SAUCER!

SLOW DOWN, BOSS... AS
LINE COACH IT'S MY JOB TO
SHACKLE TH' OZARK KID...
AND HERE'S HOW I INTEND
TO **DO JUST THAT!**

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**WHAT? - A
9-MAN LINE?**

WHY NOT?...TH'
WILDCATS DON'T
HAVE A STRONG
PASSING
ATTACK...

...SO BY FREQUENTLY
SHIFTING INTO AN 8
OR 9-MAN LINE, WE
CAN SMOTHER TH'
OZARK KID BEFORE
HE HAS A CHANCE
TO BREAK LOOSE!

HM-M...
IT MIGHT
CATCH 'EM
BY SURPRISE
AT THAT!

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MEANWHILE

THAT'S RIGHT,
STORMY...I'M
ADDING
SOME NEW
WRINKLES
TO OUR
OFFENSE
IN AN
EFFORT TO
CROSS UP
THEIR
DEFENSE!

HM-M...
SOUNDS,
LIKE TH'
SHARKS
ARE IN
FOR A
SURPRISE!

Gallo
12-11

**THAT'S
ENOUGH,
BOYS!**

...NO MORE
ROUGH WORK
UNTIL WE
TAKE ON TH'
SHARKS!

HOPE THEY
AIN'T PLUM
PLAYED OUT
AWREADY
BEFO' TH'
TITLE
GAME!

WHUT
WORKOUTS,
OZARK,...
EVUH DAY
THIS
WEEK 'TIL
ALMOS'
DARK!

BUT YUH
SEEN-WHUT
WE BEEN
COOKIN' UP,
DINAH...

...AN' US WILDCATS
ARE COUNTIN' ON
IT T' CRACK THAT
SHARK DEFENSE!

WULL, YUH
SHO GOT
SUMPUM
SPECIAL
T' SPRING
ON 'EM
HONEY!...

...BUT S'POSIN' THEY DONE
COOKED UP SOME
**EXTRUH-SPECIAL
DEFENSES?**

12-12

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AFTER A WEEK
OF INTENSIVE
PRACTICE THE
TWO TOP TEAMS
OF PRO
FOOTBALL
ARE READY TO
CLASH FOR THE
CHAMPIONSHIP!
—AND AS A
RECORD CROWD
LOOKS ON!!!

MEN, STOP
OZARK IKE
AND TH'
WILDCATS
ARE OUR
MEAT!!!

...SO BE READY
TO SHIFT INTO
OUR 9-MAN LINE
WHEN I FLASH
TH' SIGNAL
FROM TH'
BENCH!

SHOOT TH'
WORKS AS
SOON AS
YOU GET
POSSESSION
OF TH' BALL!!!

...AND IF OUR NEW PLAYS
FAIL TO OPEN UP THAT
SHARK DEFENSE WE MAY
AS WELL PICK UP
OUR MARBLES AND
GO HOME!

—AND DON'T
MISS THE
KICKOFF!!

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10110
12-13



**SHARKS
VS.
WILDCATS**

FOR THE
PRO TITLE...
-AND THE
OPENING
KICKOFF
IS IN THE
AIR...

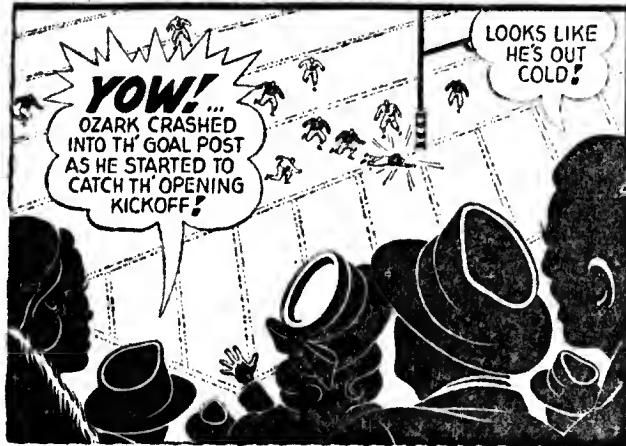
HERE'S MAH
CHANCE
T' START US
OFF WITH
A BANG!

Go!!!
12-15



(MOAN) WE'RE LICKED
ALREADY IF TH' OZARK KID'S
OUT FOR KEEPS!

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WHATTA
BREAK!... TH'
WILDCATS LOSE
TH' OZARK KID
ON TH' FIRST
PLAY OF TH'
GAME!...

...SO NOW WE
CAN SCRAP
THAT 9-
MAN LINE
IDEA!

A SOLID WEEK
WE SPENT WORKING
ON NEW PLAYS TO
OUTSMART THE
SHARK DEFENSE...

...BUT THEY'RE
ALL USELESS WITH-
OUT OZARK IN
THERE
TO MAKE
'EM GO!

-AND
ACROSS THE
FIELD...

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GOING
12-17

OH, HONEY, (SOB-*)
YUH DON'T EVUN
KNOW WHERE
YOU'RE
AT!

SHO' AH
D-DO...

...AN' BETCHA AH GIT
'FO' OR FIVE BASE
HITS BEFO' THIS
BAWL GAME
IS OVUH!

SAFETY!

EARLY IN
THE SECOND
QUARTER...

TH' SHARKS
TAKE TH'
LEAD!

TH' WILDCATS
OFFENSE
LOOKS PITIFUL
WITHOUT
OZARK IKE!

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(MOAN) THEIR
BIG LINE HAS
SMOTHERED
EVERY PLAY
WE'VE TRIED...

...SO OUR CHANCES
FOR TH'
CHAMPIONSHIP
SEEM HOPELESS
UNLESS TH'
OZARK KID
RECOVERS
IN TIME TO
SPARK OUR
ATTACK!

GOING
12-18

28

(SOB-*)
THEY DONE
TOOKEN A
2-0
LEAD,
OZARK!

W-WULL AH'LL FIX
THAT...IF'N WE
KIN GIT THEM
SATCHULS
L-LOADED BEFO'
AH COME
T'BAT!

*AFTER A SCORE-
LESS THIRD PERIOD,
THE SHARKS
INCREASE THEIR
LEAD IN THE
FOURTH QUARTER...*



**SHARKS-5
WILDCATS-0**

-AND WITH JUST
FOUR MINUTES
LEFT TO PLAY...

COACH, OZARK'S HAID
HAS DONE CLEARED UP!...
WHEN AH MENTIONED
FIELD GOAL HE GOT
OVUH THEM SILLY
NOTIONS ABOUT
THIS BEIN' A
BASEBALL
GAME!

SHO,
COACH...

...THEM BELLS
IN M' HAID AIN'T
A-CLANGIN' SO
LOUD NOW...

...SO LET ME ON
THAT HARDWOOD
AN' AH'LL
WEAR OUT
TH' NET WITH
FIELD GOALS
FRUM ALL
OVUH TH'
COURT!

GOING
12-20

(HM-M) BETTER SIT DOWN,
KID... GUESS YOU'RE
THROUGH FOR TH'
SEASON?

GUESS AGAIN,
COACH!...
IN JUST
TEN
SECONDS
OZARK
WILL HELP
SCORE THE
**WEIRDEST
TOUCH-
DOWN
OF THE
SEASON!!**

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LESS THAN FOUR
MINUTES TO PLAY...
AND TH' OZARK KID
HASN'T BEEN IN TH'
GAME SINCE
GETTING KNOCKED
OUT ON TH'
OPENING
KICKOFF!

LOOK!-TH'
SHARKS ARE
PASSING!

WITH THE
SHARKS AHEAD
5 TO 0 AFTER
A SAFETY AND
A FIELD GOAL!!!



THAT DONE IT!-
(SOB*) HE'S GOT
A CLEAR FIELD
ALL TH' WAY FER
A TOUCH----

OZARK!
**COME
BACK!!**

G-GOTTA
STOP HIM...
GOTTA...



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Gotto
12-22

**WHATTA
TACKLE!**

-OZARK
DASHED IN
FROM TH'
SIDELINES
AND SPILLED
HIM!

TH' KID ISN'T
IN TH' GAME...
SO TH' SHARKS
WILL BE GIVEN
A TOUCHDOWN!

(GULP)-SUMPUN'S
ALL FOULED UP...
HOW COME **HE'S**
GOT TH'
BAWL?



HEY, COACH!...
DIDN'T AH JUS'
GRAB TH' OPENIN'
KICKOFF AN'---

THAT WAS
OVER AN
HOUR AGO,
KID...



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...AND NOW THIS JARRING TACKLE
HAS CLEARED YOUR HEAD...
FEEL LIKE PLAYING?



SHO, COACH...IT
BEATS WORKIN'
FER A LIVIN'!

AS THE
SHARKS
CONVERT
THE EXTRA
POINT AND
TAKE A
12-0
LEAD...

3½ MINUTES LEFT
IN TH' GAME, OZARK...
SO GET IN THERE
AND SPRING THOSE
NEW PLAYS!

YAS-SUH!

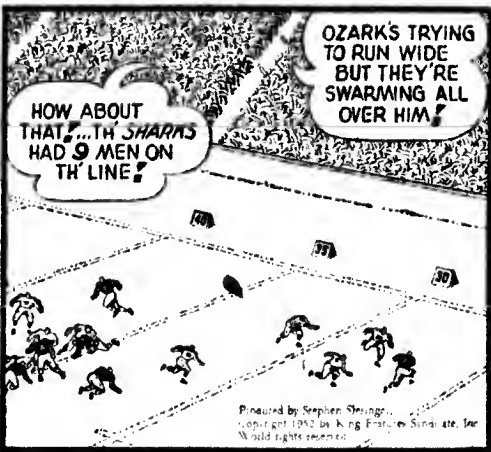
-AND AFTER THE
WILDCATS RETURN THE
KICKOFF TO THEIR OWN
35-YARD LINE...

FELLUHS, HERE'S
WHAR WE SHOCK
TH' SOX OFF
'EM!

THEY'LL TRY TO SHAKE TH' KID
LOOSE FOR A LONG RUN... SO
I'LL SIGNAL OUR DEFENSIVE
UNIT TO SHIFT
INTO A **9-**
MAN LINE!

FOHIO
12-24

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WOW!

- OZARK
HEAVED
ONE **60**
YARDS!

TH' FIRST PASS HE'S
THROWN THIS YEAR, AND
IT CAUGHT TH **SHARKS**
COMPLETELY BY
SURPRISE!

A TOUCHDOWN
FOR TH
WILDCATS!

15

☆@#*!!-
-YOU AND YOUR
9-MAN LINE
IDEA!

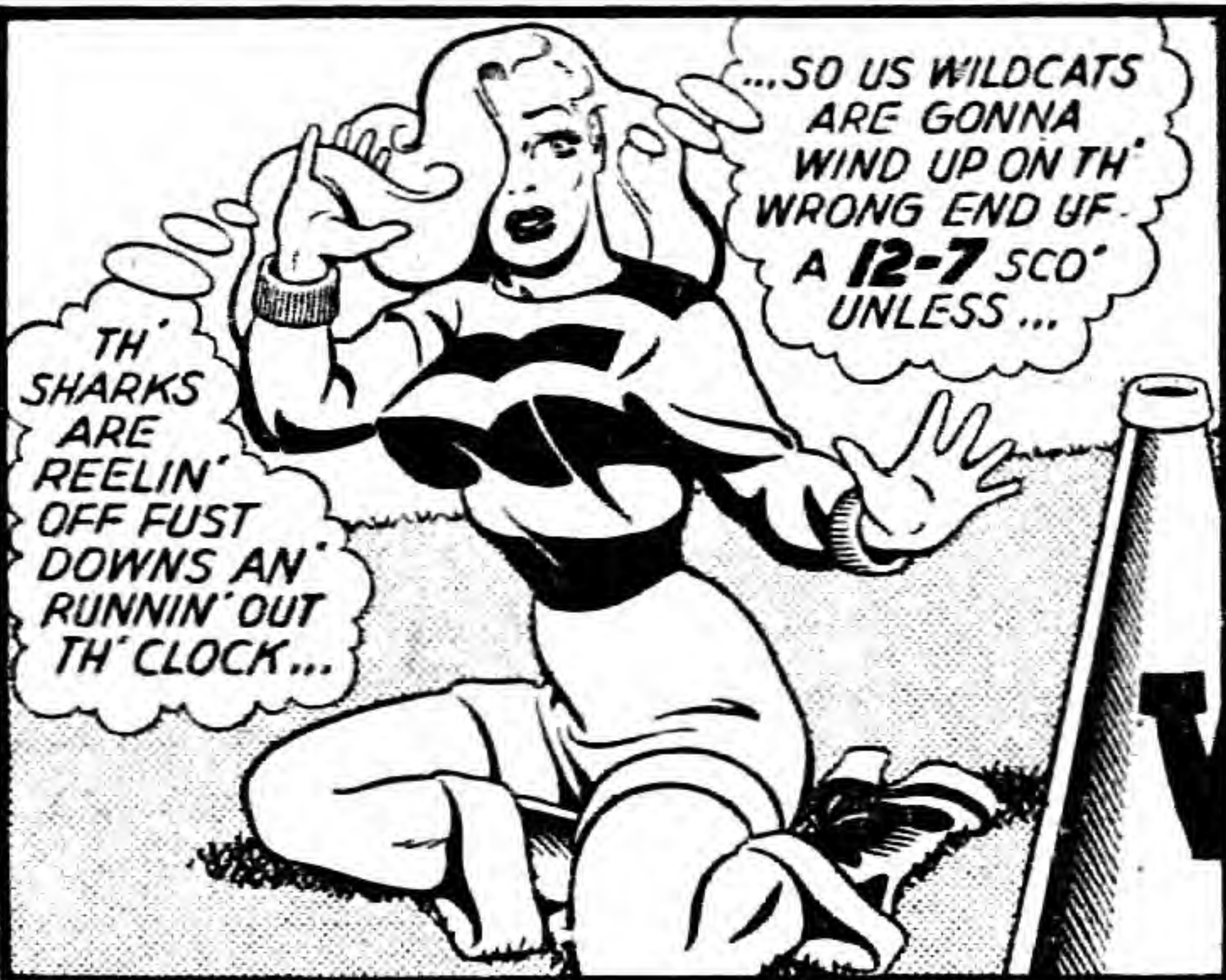
AND (MOAN) THERE
GOES THE EXTRA
POINT... BUT WE'RE
STILL OUT IN
FRONT **12 TO 7** WITH
LESS THAN **3**
MINUTES
TO PLAY!

Gotto
12-26

NOW WE GOT
'EM GUESSIN',
MATES!

BUT WE CAN'T OUT-
SMART TH' CLOCK... SO
WE'RE STILL OUTA
LUCK LESS'N WE KIN
LATCH ONTO
THAT PIGSKIN
AG'IN!

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**SHARKS-12
WILDCATS-7**

-AND WITH LESS
THAN A MINUTE
TO PLAY FOR THE
PRO TITLE...

LOOK AT
OZARK
DRIVE!

THE KID
RIPPED
OFF TACKLE
FOR **15**
YARDS!

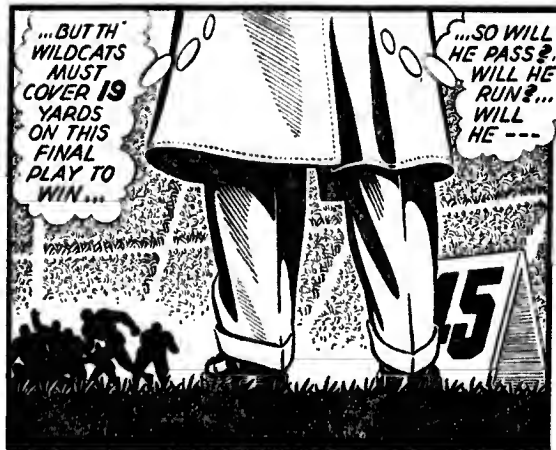
FIRST DOWN
ON THE
SHARK **35!**

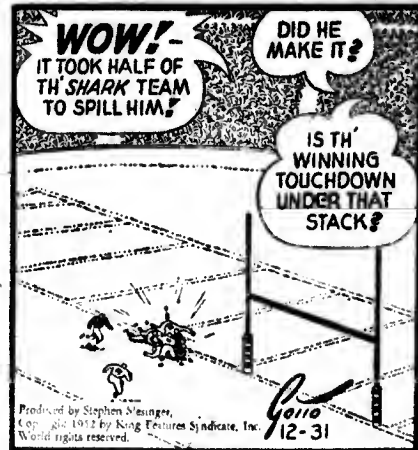
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-AND TWO COMPLETED PASSES MOVE
THE BALL TO THE **19-YARD LINE**

HURRY, OZARK!...
YOU BARELY GOT TIME
FER **ONE MO'
PLAY!!**

Go! 10
12-29





WHAT A
PILE-UP!

TH' SHARKS FINALLY
SMOTHERED OZARK
NEAR TH' GOAL LINE!

TH' GAME IS
OVER - AND TH'
PRO TITLE
HINGES ON
WHERE TH'
REFEREE
LOCATES
TH' BALL!

- AND AFTER
AGONIZING
SECONDS
THAT SEEM
LIKE HOURS...

UNSCRAMBLE,
FELLUHS,
AN' LE'S GO
HOME!

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**SOME
FINISH!**

TH' WILDCATS
WON, 13 TO 12,
ON TH' LAST
PLAY OF TH'
GAME!

TH' OZARK KID PASSED AND RAN
FOR TWO TOUCHDOWNS IN TH'
LAST THREE MINUTES TO BEAT
TH' SHARKS OUT
OF TH' TITLE!

WAIT'LL
**NEXT
YEAR!**

NOW WE KIN HIT
TH' ROAD FER
HOME, OZARK!

Go 110
1-2

SHO, DINAH...
BUT AH
GUESS
THERE
AIN'T NO
NEED
T' HURRY!

UH--YOU GOT ANOTHUH
GUESS A-COMIN',
OL' BUDDY!

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**BUBBUH
BEAN!**...
AIN'T SEEN
YUH SINCE
TH' WORLD
SERIES!

WHUTEVUH
BRUNG YUH
TO TH' CITY?

UH--
A CAR!

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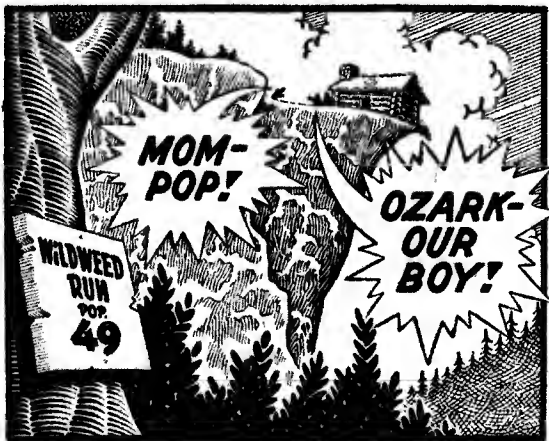
SO YUH DROVE
UP, HUNH?

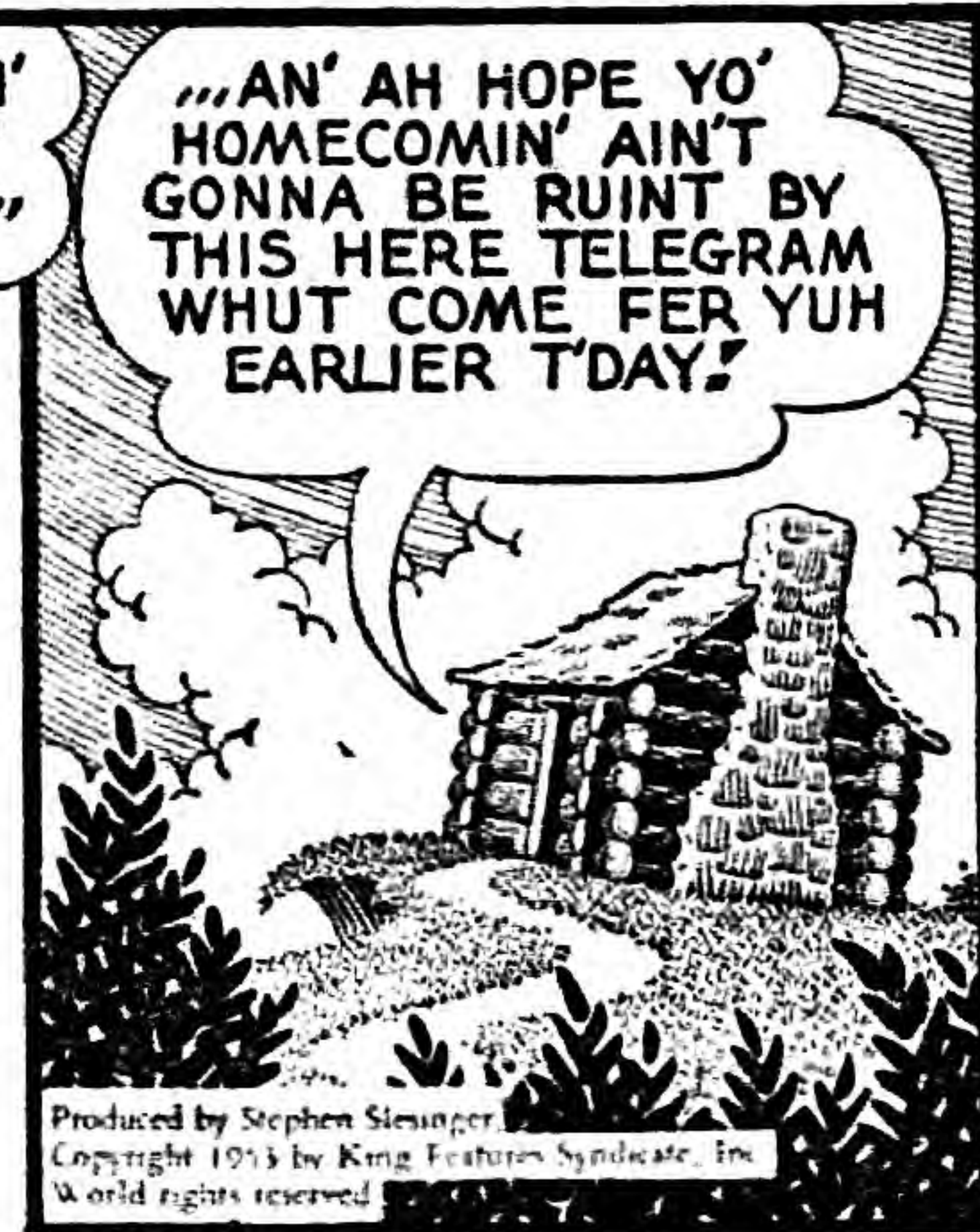
UH--HARDLY...
THIS WUZ A
BOX CAR!...

...ANYHOW, AH'M
HERE ON ACCOUNT
UF ALL THEM BIG
GAMES A-COMIN'
UP!

BUBBUH, YOU
NEED A CALENDUH!...
US **WILDCATS**
JUS' FINISHED
TH' SEASON!

BUT US **HOT SHOTS** ARE JUS'
COMMENCIN'!...AN' AH AIM T'MAKE
SHO YUH GIT HOME BEFO' OUR
FUST BASKETBAWL GAME
NEX' WEEK
!!





LOOK, FELLUHS!...
A WIRE FRUM
OUR OL' PAL IN
TH' BIG CITY!

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WESTERN UNION

HOT SHOTS =
WILDWEED RUN, ARK.

CAN MATCH YOU WITH PRO
BASKETBALL CHAMPS IN GARDEN
AT END OF SEASON PROVIDING
YOU WIN ALL GAMES ON
SCHEDULE.

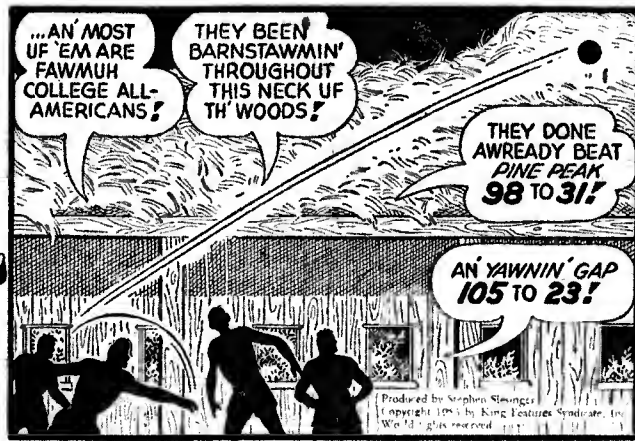
=BARKY BARKER
SPORTS ENTERPRISE

Go to 1-7

WE LICKED
'EM LAS' YEAR
AN' WE KIN
DO IT
AG'IN!

BUT FUST AN'
FO'MOST WE
GOTTA
BEAT TH'
HAWKS!

GUESS AH
BETTUH START
PRACTICIN'
UP ON MAH
PEG SHOT!





L
A
T
E
R



TWO HOURS
BEFORE
GAME TIME--
AND AS
THE HAWKS
ARRIVE AT
JASMINE
JUNCTION...

THIS IS IT, BOYS...
TH' GYM WHERE TH'
HOT SHOTS PLAY
THEIR HOME
GAMES!

AND THEY
HAVEN'T
LOST ONE ON
THIS FLOOR
IN YEARS!...

...BUT
TONIGHT
THEIR LUCK
RUNS OUT!

YEAH... OUR AIRTIGHT
DEFENSE WILL MAKE 'EM
WISH TH' BASEBALL
SEASON WAS ALREADY
HERE!

MEANWHILE

UH--WE DIDN'T
FERGIT NUFFIN',
DID WE?

NOPE... WE GOT
OZARK'S PEG SHOT
AN' OUR
HELTUH-SKELTUH
OFFENSE RIGHT
HERE WIF US!

THAT'S
**ALL WE
NEED!**

WE
HOPE!

JASMINE
JUNCTION
1 MILE →

Gallo
1-10

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JASMINE
JUNCTION,
WHERE ALL
ROADS LEAD
TO THE
LOCAL
GYM...
AND AS THE
BARNSTORM-
ING HAWKS
DRESS FOR
TONIGHT'S
GAME...

THESE *HOT SHOTS*
WE'RE PLAYING
HAVEN'T LOST
A GAME IN
OVER A
YEAR!

INCREDIBLE!...AFTER
ALL, WHO HAVE THEY
GOT, OUTSIDE OF
THOSE TWO BIG-LEAGUE
BASEBALL STARS
OZARK IKE AND
BUBBER BEAN?

NOBODY EXCEPT A FEW
FARM HANDS!... BUT I
HAVE A HUNCH YOU FORMER
ALL-AMERICAN CAGERS ARE
GONNA SEE SOME
SHOOTING LIKE
YOU NEVER
SAW IN
COLLEGE!


... AND I DON'T MEAN
CRAPSHOOTING!

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0110
1-12



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TH' OPENIN' JUMP...
AN' BUBBUH'S A-TIPPIN'
TH' BAWL TO OZARK!

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SHAKE A LAIG,
BUBBUH... AH'M
A-FIXIN' T' PULL
TH' TRIGGUH ON
OUR **B.B. SHOT!**

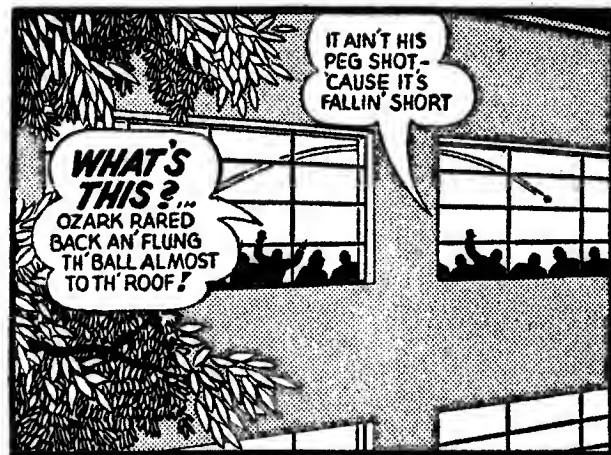
UH--
FIRE
AWAY!

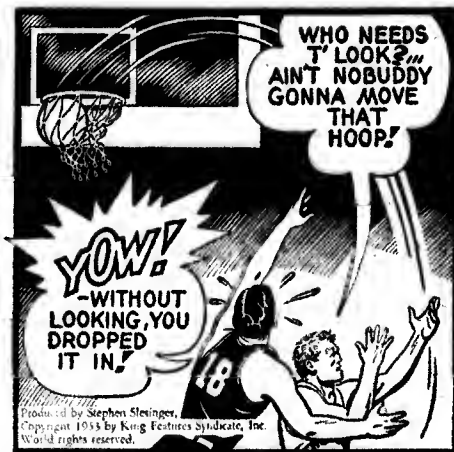


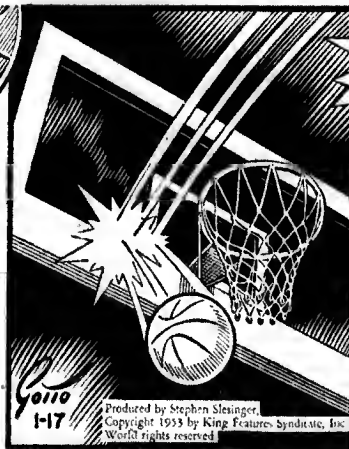
HEY!?
HOW WILD CAN
HE GET?

TH'
OZARK KID
ALMOST
THREW IT
INTO TH'
RAFTERS!

- BUT WAIT'LL YOU SEE HIS
MOVING TARGET!









(MOAN) AH
DONE MISSED
ANOTHUH ONE!

**TIME
OUT!**

CAN'T UNNUH-
STAN' IT,
FELLUHS... AH
AIN'T SUNK A
SINGLE
PEG SHOT
T'NIGHT...

...AN' WHUT PUZZLES ME
IS THAT EVUH ONE AH DONE
FLUNG HAS FADED TO TH'
LEF' SIDE UF TH' BASKET!...

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...R-RECKON
AH'M **OVUH**
TH'HILL?

UH--IF'N YUH
ARE, US **HOT SHOTS**
ARE **UP A**
TREE!

GOING
1-20



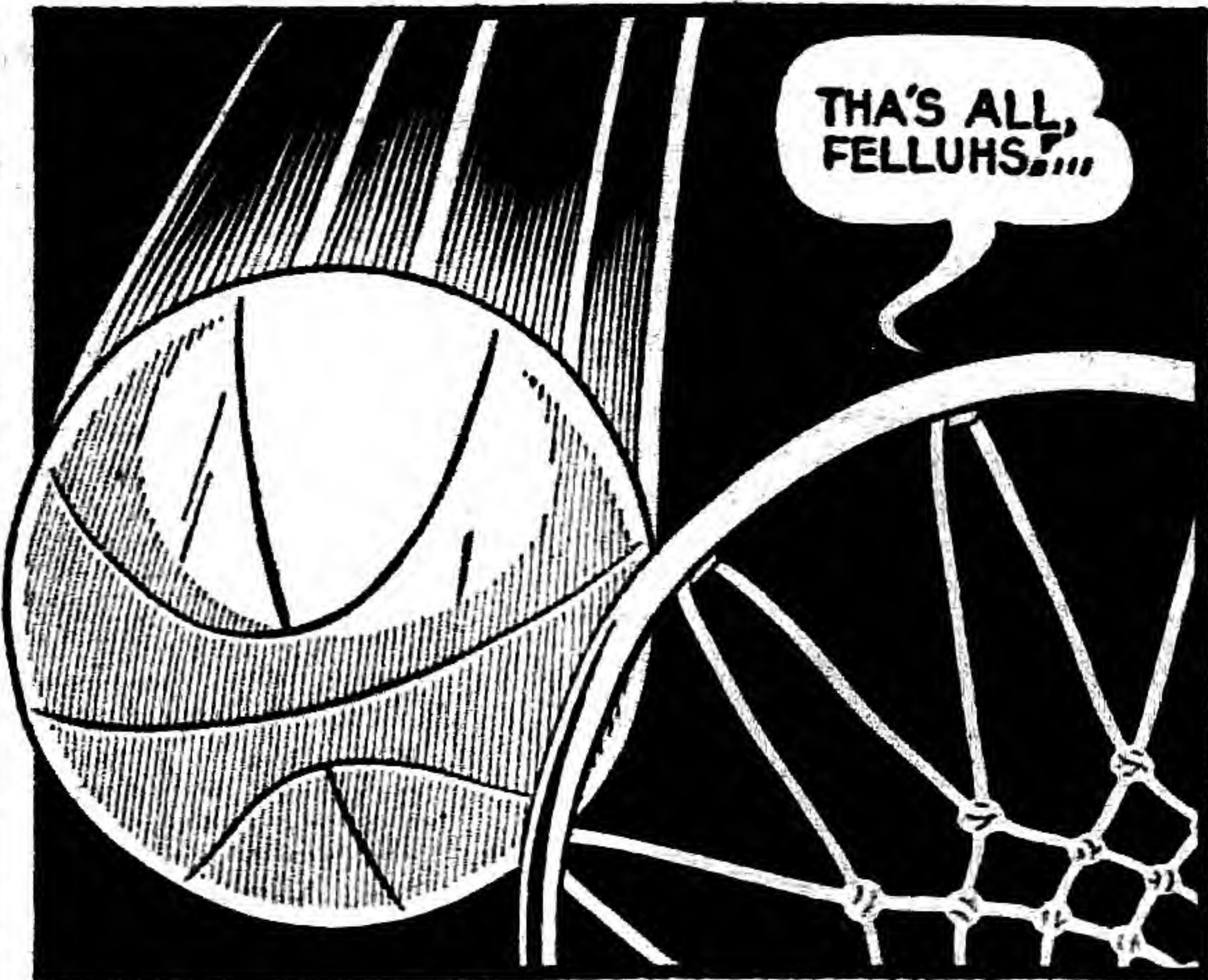


AH'LL TRY JUS' ONE
MO' PEG SHOT!



AS THE GAME MOVES
INTO THE FOURTH
QUARTER WITH THE
HAWKS LEADING 71 TO 58...

THA'S ALL,
FELLUHS...



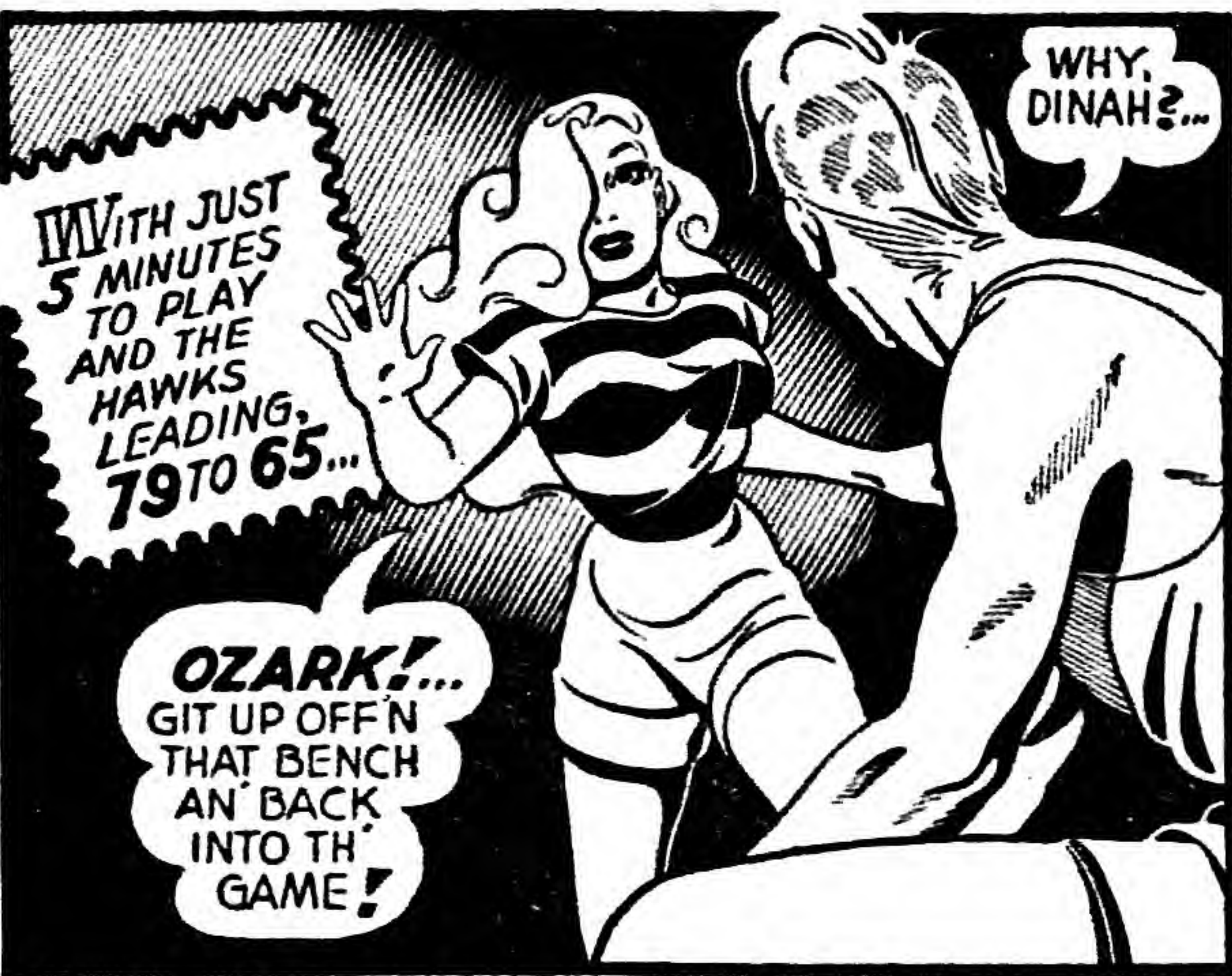
...(CHOKE*) AH'M
GONNA BENCH
MAHSELF BEFO'
AH THROW TH'
GAME
AWAY!

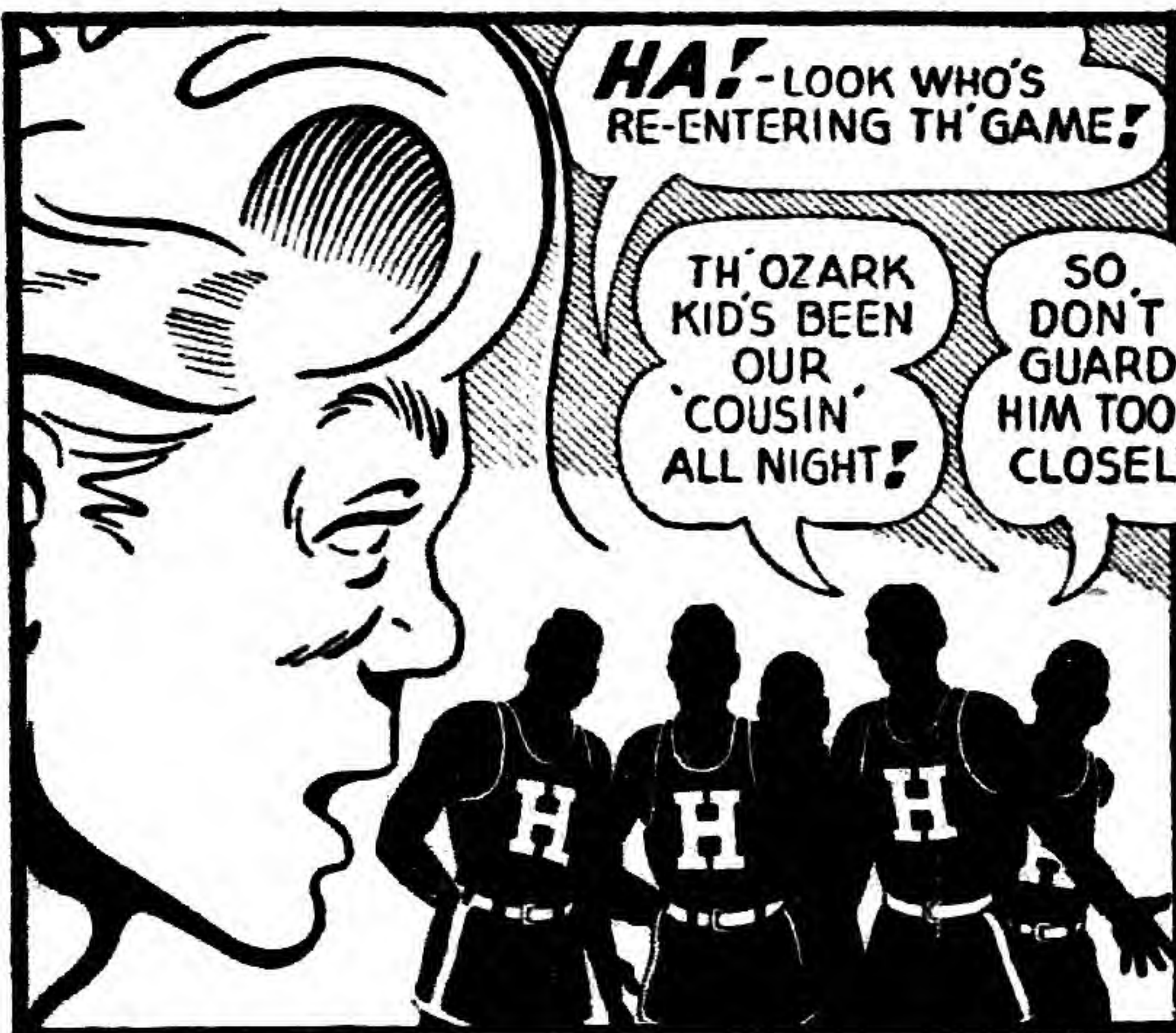
UH--GIT YO'SELF RE-
CHARGED FER A SCORCHIN'
FINISH, OZARK...THEIR
SKIMPY 13-POINT LEAD
WILL GO UP IN SMOKE
WHEN US HOT SHOTS
START SIZZLIN'!



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WOW!

- OZARK'S
DONE FOUND
TH' RANGE WITH
HIS PEG SHOT!

67 69 71

73

75 77 79

TH' HOT SHOTS
ARE CLOSIN'
TH' GAP ON
THEM HAWKS!

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'ATTA BOY, OZARK...
YUH DONE SCORED
14 POINTS FER US
WHILE WE
HELD THEM
HAWKS T'ONE
MEASLY
FOUL SHOT!

BUT (MOAN) THAT
GIVES 'EM AN **80-**
TO-79 LEAD
WITH LESS'N A
MINUTE
T'PLAY!

UH--YOU JUS'
KEEP A-PITCHIN',
PAL!



40110
1-28

**SHOOT,
HONEY!**

WHEE!

BUBBUH'S
DONE SNAGGED
A HAWK
PASS AN' FLUNG
TH' BAWL
TO OZARK!

LOOK! - HERE GOES
TH' LONGEST SHOT
OZARK'S TRIED
T'NIGHT!

(GULP)
THIS IS
TH' ONE
WHUT
COUNTS!

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- AND WITH JUST 10
SECONDS TO PLAY,
THE HOTSHOTS GRAB
THE LEAD, 81 TO 80!

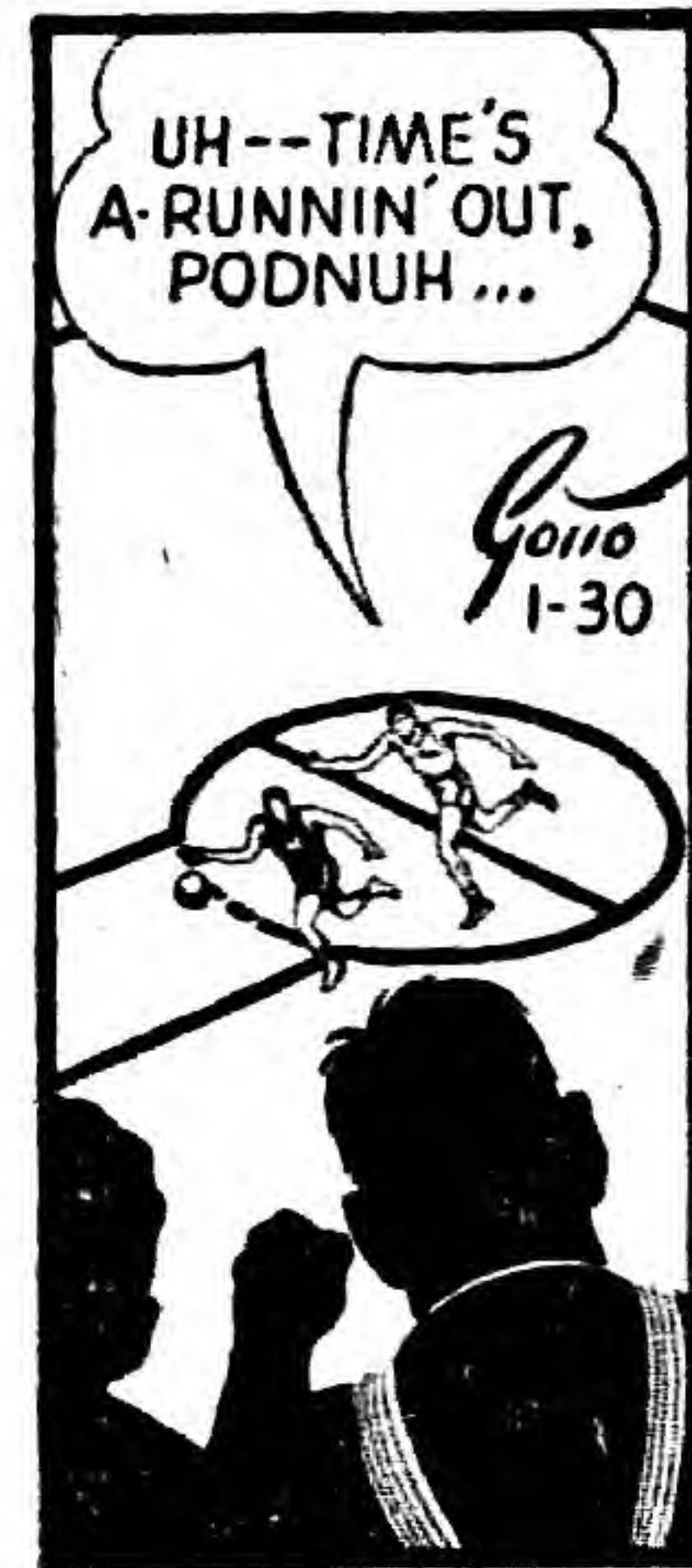
HEY! - SOMEBUDDY COVUH THAT
HAWK A-RACIN' DOWN TH'
FLO' FER THIS LONG PASS!

Go to
1-29



**HA! - NOBODY
BETWEEN ME
AND TH' GOAL!**

**A LONG
PASS
IN THE
FINAL
SECONDS...**



**UH--TIME'S
A-RUNNIN' OUT,
PODNUH...**

**GOING
1-30**



**...AN' SO'S
YO' LUCK!**

BANG!



**BEAN SAVED
TH' GAME!**

**OZARK SLUNG
IN /6 POINTS IN
TH' LAST
5 MINUTES!**


**TH' HOT SHOTS
WIN, 81
TO 80!**

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DINAH, YOU GOT TH' RIGHT
IDEA... AN' IT'S TH' ONLY WAY
AH'LL ACCEPT THIS BIG
OFFUH T' PLAY FER
\$500 A GAME!



COACH, AH'M ALL SET T'
JOIN UP WITH YO' *HAWKS*,
PUHVIDIN' YOU'LL ALSO
HIRE TH' REST UF TH'
HOT SHOTS!

ALL THOSE FREAKS?...
IMPOSSIBLE!

**L
A
T
E
R**

OZARK, YUH
AIN'T SAID
A WORD
SINCE
WE LEF'
JASMINE
JUNCTION!

UH--
WHUTCHA
GOT ON
YO'
MIND,
OZARK?

NUFFIN'
BUT US *HOT*
SHOTS' NEX'
GAME,
FELLUHS!



**WILDWEED
RUN
3 MILES**

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Go 110
2-4

LE'S SEE, DINAH ... \$500
A GAME FER 20 GAMES
WOULDA ADDED UP
TO... HM-M-

A HEAP
UF MONEY,
OZARK...

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...BUT YUH DONE TH'
RIGHT THING WHEN
YUH TURNED DOWN
THAT OFFUH T'JOIN
TH' HAWKS!

WULL, US *HOT SHOTS*
HAVE BEEN PROMISED
A GAME IN TH' GARDEN
IF'N WE DON'T LET
NOBUDDY BEAT US...

...SO TH' FELLUHS ARE
COUNTIN' ON A BIG,
FAT CHECK FER
THAT TUSSELE!...

...AN' AH AIM
T'HELP 'EM
COLLECT IT!

Go to
2-5

SPORTS
ENTERPRISES,
INC.
BARKY
BARKER

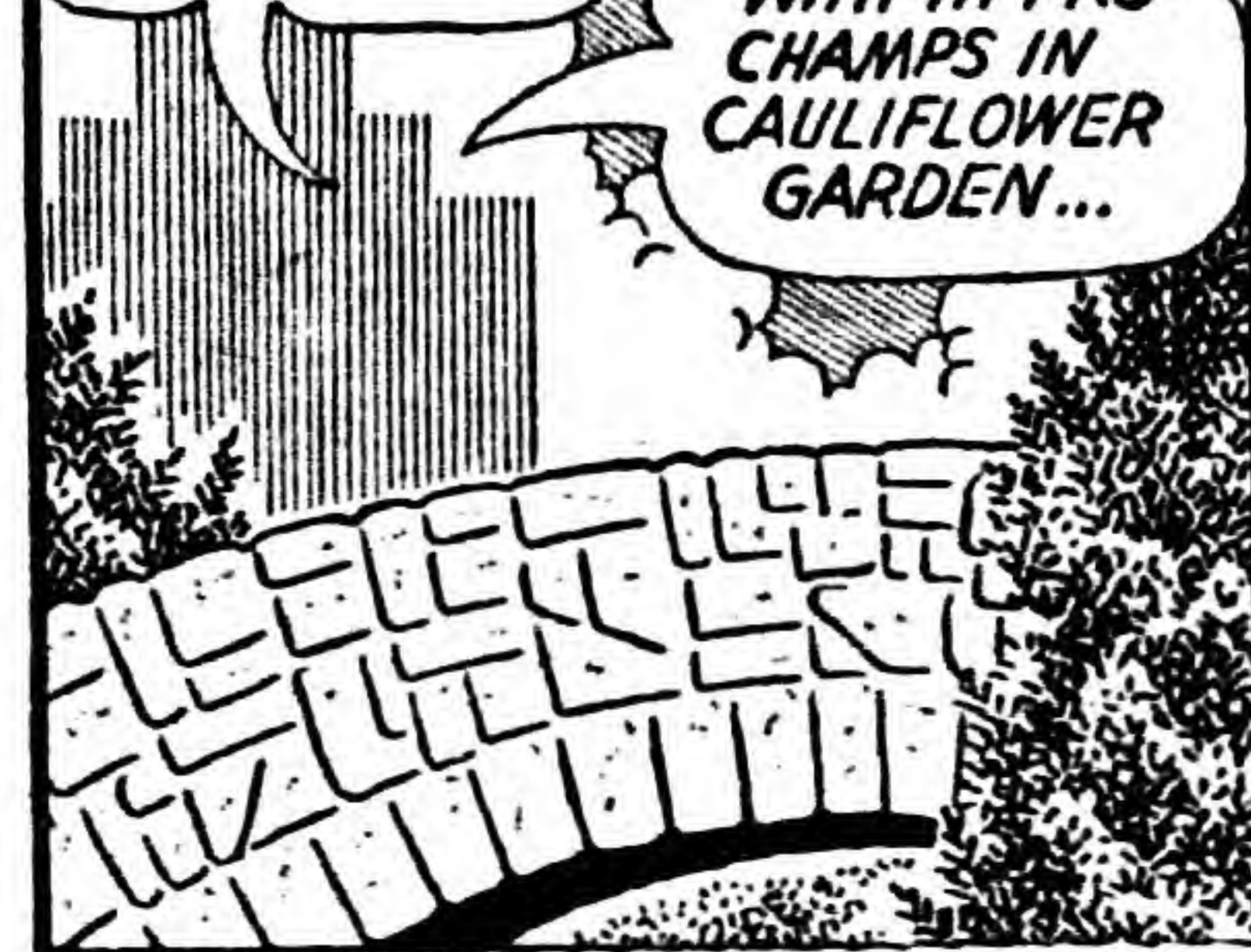
HA!
-TH'
**HOT SHOTS
WIN
AGAIN!...**



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...SO NOW
THEY'RE HALF-
WAY THROUGH
THEIR SCHEDULE
WITHOUT A
SINGLE LOSS!...

...AND I'VE GOT
THOSE AMAZING
HILLBILLIES
ALL LINED UP
FOR TH' GAME
OF TH' YEAR
WITH TH' PRO
CHAMPS IN
CAULIFLOWER
GARDEN...



...**IF THEY CAN
REMAIN
UNDEFEATED!**



GOING
2-6

WE STILL GOT
A RUGGED ROW
T'HOE, FELLUHS!

BUT ELEVUN
MO' WINS, AN' US
HOT SHOTS
ARE IN!

UH--IN
CLOVUH,
THAT IS!



ALL THE
HOT SHOTS
SCORE
VICTORY
AFTER
VICTORY
IN THE
OZARKS...

97-63

88-24

79-35

101-62

92-39

83-79

107-28

68-67

99-71

72-19

104-66

JASMINE JUNCTION
ARMORY

Go
2-7

WE DONE IT,
GANG... WON
EVUH GAME ON
OUR SLATE!

AN' NOW
FER TH'
BIG UN
IN TH'
GARDEN!

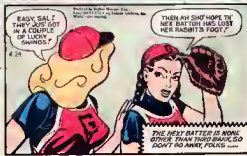
UH--
RECKON WE
KIN BEAT THEM
PRO CHAMPS
LIKE WE DONE
LAS' SEASON?

SMILE WHILE YOU CAN, BOYS... A FRIGHT-
FUL SHOCK AWAITS YOU IN THE CITY!!

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CLARK LIKE

by
ED STROPS

THE LEOPARDS
HAVE TAPPED SAL
FOR A HOMER
AND TWO SINGLES IN THE
FIRST INNING!

WITH RUNNERS ON FIRST
AND THIRD AND TWO BARK,
THE ACE CATCHER FOR THE
LEOPARDS AT BAT, SAL IS
IN FOR TROUBLE!

SOCK!

A SHARP DRIVE THAT
LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT
BE GOOD FOR A HIT...

GOT
YOU?

WHY? GREAT
STOP BY THE
SECOND BASEMAN!

THE GLAMAZONS
TAKE THE DOUBLE
PLAY AS THE RUNNER
FROM THIRD SCORES!

THE SIDE IS RETIRED AS
THE NEXT BATTER FLIES
OUT...

AN CAN'T UNDERSTAND
IT, DINKY! MY ARM HAS
NEVUH BEEN THIS BAD!

DON'T WORRY, SAL, IT'LL
WORK ITSELF OUT. BESIDES,
WE'LL GET THOSE TWO RUNS
BACK RIGHT NOW!

TRY AS THEY MAY, THE FIRST TWO BATTERS FLY OUT TO
SHORT LEFT...

THE THIRD BATTER DOES LITTLE BETTER...

OUT!

HAVE THE GLAMAZONS
MET THEIR MATCH?

CLARK IKE

by
ED STROPS

IN THE LEOPARDS' DUGOUT...



IT LOOKS AS THOUGH MY BASEBALL TEAM WILL TURN OUT TO BE AS GOOD AN INVESTMENT AS MY OIL WELLS. TH' LEOPARDS HAVE SCORED TWO RUNS ALREADY AND IT'S JUST THE FIRST INNING!

THE GLAMAZONS' DUGOUT.



(DINAH) SALS ARM HAS NEVER BEEN THIS BAD, AN TH' GIRLS AINT SO MUCH AS HIT A LOUD FOUL OFF TH' LEOPARDS' PITCHER?

THE LEOPARDS FAIL TO SCORE IN THE TOP OF THE SECOND...



OK, SAL... LET'S START TH' BALL ROLLIN'!

GOTTA DO SOMETHIN' I MAKE UP FOR MAN PO' PITCHIN'!

SAL SINGLES TO RIGHT...



SOCK

DINAH FOLLOWS WITH A WALK...



HOPE MY STRATEGY WORKS

BARNEY'S SIGNALING FOR TH' HIT-AN-RUN!



THIRD BARR DOES A LITTLE SIGNALING OF HER OWN...

PITCH-OUT!

THE THROW GOES TO THIRD AND SAL IS CAUGHT IN A RUNCOWN...



AND TAGGED OUT!



(GROAN)

A FINE PLACE YOU PICKED TO TAKE A REST, SADSBRUSH... NOT THAT YOU DON'T NEED IT! HA-HA-HA!

CLARK LIKE

by
ED STROPS



CLARK LIKE

by
ED STROPS



AND IN THE LAST OF THE SEVENTH WITH THE LEOPARDS LEADING 2-1... DINAH SITS THINKING IN THE DUG-OUT...



CLARK LIKE

by
ED STROPS



CLARK LIKE

by
ED STROPS

AS SAGEBRUSH
SAL BATS IN THE
LAST OF THE
EIGHTH WITH
A RUNNER ON
FIRST AND ONE OUT
AND THE SCORE
TIED 2-2

I'M SURE I KNOW HOW THIRD BARK
CAN TELL EVERY MOVE WE'RE GONNA
MAKE, BARNY... JUST DO AS I TOLD YOU
AND I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU... GIVE SAL
TH' BUNT SIGN!

OK, BARNY.
HERE GOES!

THERE'S TH' SIGNAL
FROM FATSO FOR A
BUNT? I'LL GET A
DOUBLE PLAY
ON THIS ONE
EASY!

ACCORDIN'
T DAWG'S
PLAN, AH
SHOULD
IGNORE
THIS
SIGNAL?

LOOK? SAL FAKED A
BUNT AN' PULLED HER
BAT AWAY AT TH' LAST
SECOND?

THIRD BARK CHARGED
OUT T' FIELD TH' BALL
AN' RAN HEAD ON
INTO TH' PITCH!

AH DIDN'T FIGURE ON THIS.
BUT IT SHD' PROVE MAH
THEORY... THIRD BARK
STOLE OUR SIGNALS
SOMEHOW!

AND TH' WINNING RUN WENT
ALL TH' WAY TO THIRD AS TH'
BALL BOUNCED OFF THIRD
BARK AN' ROLLED TO TH'
BACKSTOP!

THIRD BARK
HASN'T GOTTEN
UP YET!

THE TWO
TEAMS ARE
GATHERED
AROUND
HER!

WONDER
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

OH, BROTHER... SHE
SHOUL'DVE BEEN AN
ACTRESS!

OK, THIRD. YOU KIN
GIT UP NOW... YOU AIN'T
HURT NOTHIN' BUT YOUR
REPUTATION... TH' BALL
HIT YOUR MASK AN'
ONLY STUNNED
YOU!

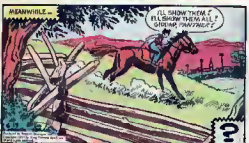
(BARNY) MIGHT AS
WELL CONFESS BEFORE
I PASS INTO TH' GREAT
BEYOND! I TOOK MOVIES
OF ALL YOUR PRACTICE
GAMES...

AND SINCE
I CAN READ LIPS I
MANAGED TO LEARN
ALL YOUR SIGNALS -
FAREWELL!

ON WITH THE GAME!

CLARK IKE

ED STROPS



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